

A N A L Y S E S
OF
NEW WORKS
OF
VOYAGES AND TRAVELS,
PUBLISHED
During the last Six Months
IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Seven Articles, of which the present Number consists, will afford our readers a very competent knowledge of the contents of the expensive works to which they relate. It did not fall within the scope of our undertaking to give any regular critical opinion, in the style of reviewers, but it was impossible to examine so much interesting matter without occasional expressions, as it were, involuntarily escaping us, with reference to its quality.

Nothing is more difficult than to give a satisfactory analysis of a book of travels ; for so much of the interest depends on the manner of the author, that the juice and fragrance of the production are liable to be destroyed in the process of compression. On this account we considered that we should do more justice to the authors and to our readers, by a liberal series of extracts, than by attempting a dry abridgment. In this respect, we therefore trust that the present number will meet with the approbation of both parties ; especially, as it will be observed that we have increased the number of our pages, to enable us to execute this with the more effect.

12th August, 1819.

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ANALYSES
OF RECENT
VOYAGES AND TRAVELS,
PUBLISHED IN GREAT BRITAIN.

I.

Journal of a Route across India, through Egypt to England, in the latter End of the Year 1817, and the Beginning of 1818. By Lieutenant-colonel FITZCLARENCE. 4to. pp. 502.

THIS is one of those clever, lively, and interesting books which reflect much credit on the writers, without exactly placing them in the rank of men of genius. It contains very natural transcripts of what the author has observed, told in a clear and animated manner, often with taste, and always with the impress of generous feeling. The first three chapters being dedicated to disquisitions concerning the military and political situation of India at the opening of the late campaign, we shall pass them over, as not falling within the scope of our work; but, to make amends for this, we shall give as full an account of the various matter which constitutes "the personal narrative" as can be done with propriety in the compass of our narrow limits.

Lieutenant-colonel Fitzclarence was selected by the Marquis of Hastings to be the bearer of the dispatches overland, containing the terms of his treaty with Scindiah; and "the personal" narrative commences with this circumstance. On the morning of the 8th December, 1817, he left the camp at Sajapoore, mounted on an elephant, (no very nimble animal for conveying an express) for Emrookee, where, while his servants were preparing his palanquin, he reflected naturally, with regret, at parting with the frank fellowship of his companions in arms, many of whom, it was probable, he should never see again; the dangers and difficulties of his undertaking also rapidly presented themselves to his mind. "I was in the centre of Bundelcund, one of the most inland provinces of India, setting out to cross the whole of that continent, the greater part of which belonged to princes at war with us, or, at least, at best, but jealous, envious, cold-hearted friends. I reflected on the extreme difficulty I should have to combat in judging

of the degree of risk to be avoided, or encountered, in certain situations, to escape the imputation either of rashness, or want of enterprise. I certainly felt myself absolutely forlorn, and the busy scene I had been so long accustomed to was strongly contrasted with the stillness around.

"But three days before, I had been with some of my companions on a neighbouring hill, viewing the busy camp of 80,000 souls at the foot of it, spreading over the extended plain, with the buzz of voices, lowing of cattle, roaring of camels, and the smoke of innumerable fires ascending on all sides, when the whole country around was covered by a moving host. Under the walls of a small fort, with none but my palanquin bearers and servants around me, I now stood comparatively alone in the centre of a plain, too extensive for the eye to reach its limits; and the only vestiges of the crowd which had trod down the growing wheat in the adjoining field, three days before, were the marks of thousands of feet, uniformly in one direction, and the carcase of a buffalo, a sacrifice to the last day's march, covered with voracious vultures."

He thence proceeded to the town of Erij, "through the melancholy vestiges of the pestilence which had carried off thousands. The remains of the poor wretches who had fallen victims to its rage, lay on the road-side, torn from their graves by the hungry wolves; and the horrid state in which they were, half devoured, half decomposed, exhibited affecting proofs of mortality in its worst shape, and did not by any means tend to dispel my gloomy thoughts." He then gives an account of the ravages of the pestilence in Calcutta and the camps; but the details are painful, and do not properly belong to the thread of the narrative; one circumstance, however, must not be omitted, as strikingly descriptive of the influence of religious prejudice.

"Excepting in two instances, which came to my knowledge, every idea of cast, prejudice of religion, and impurity, yielded to its violence; and not one of those under my charge refused to take medicine, out of a wine-glass, from my hand. The instances I allude to were of two Bramins, I believe writers, or clerks, in the offices of the adjutant-general and judge-advocate. These men, from a dread of being defiled, refused to take any thing but from the hands of each other, both stating, that there were none in the camp of so high and pure a cast. Being seized at the same time in different and distant parts, this refusal of all remedies offered them proved fatal, and they equally fell victims to what they fancied a religious and commendable principle, and were doubtless looked upon as martyrs.

"Erij has been a place of some importance. Its numerous mausoleums with domes bespeak it a Mahometan city. One of these was of very peculiar construction, being a dome raised on four half arches, or rather a dome acting as a key-stone to four unfinished arches. It appears that the Mahometans are anxious to lay their bones and those of their friends in good substantial buildings, while, during their lives, they inhabit very mean huts. This, I conceive, originates in a fear of showing their wealth, which, under despotic governments, always creates jealousy and suspicion; and a traveller of the seventeenth century, in this country, accounts for the splendid tombs of the Mahometans, by their king being heir to all their wealth, and these erections the only property they could call their own."

"About nine o'clock, on the morning of the day following, our traveller discovered the vicinity of Mahobah by the number of temples, tombs, and ruins, some of them beautifully picturesque, scattered on all sides. Near Mahobah is a most splendid tank, formed by raising a vast dam of large granite stones across a valley, from hill to hill; and the country inclining towards it accumulates, during the rains, a body of water nearly two miles in circumference."

He met with nothing particularly remarkable till he reached Adji Ghur, "one of the most celebrated hill-forts in India, not only on account of its strength, but its sanctity. It owes but little to art, and is, I am told, about three miles in circumference. The wall is built on the edge of the table land, and, when manfully defended, must be almost impregnable, as the garrison would only require to roll stones over the ramparts to crush the assailants. When we attacked it some years ago, the governor, a rebellious Zemeendar, though he repulsed us in an attempt to storm, thought it prudent to evacuate it. This desertion of his fort, having left his family at our mercy, occasioned one of those extraordinary instances of fortitude, and contempt of death, which sometimes occur among the Hindoos. The females of the Zemeendar's family were to be removed on our taking possession of the fort, and a venerable relation was sent to prepare them. His stay was long; but the sacredness of the Zunana (women's apartment) debarred all entrance, till the length of time became totally unaccountable, and the door was at last burst open. The horrid scene which presented itself was hardly to be borne; the women, eight in number, and the person who had gone into their apartment, were found dead and weltering in their blood. This sanguinary act must have been consented to by one and all; as, had any resistance or violence been used by

any of the party, it would have been heard by those on the outside."

From this place to Lohargong we meet with nothing interesting, nor, indeed, till the author reaches Nagpoor, is there any thing particularly deserving of being quoted, although the spirit of the narrative suffers no abatement. It is the journal of a gallant young officer, devoted to his profession; and contains, of course, a great number of military details, that can only interest other soldiers. We, however, occasionally meet with judicious general observations that deserve attention, as, for example, the following:—

" I cannot but express here, though with sorrow, that I am not surprised our religion is held in disrepute by the natives of India. Being, from its very essence, anxious to receive into its bosom any proselyte who offers; the missionary, too ready to go through the forms, dubs christians the vilest wretches of the lowest class, or of no caste, whose ideas can hardly reach any persuasion, except that which is imposed by early education and fear. Their desertion from their former faith can be founded only on self-interest, and the gratification of eating what they choose, of swallowing arrack, and calling themselves of " master's caste," and fancying themselves of master's religion. What has made the Hindoo, I conceive, think ill of us, and look upon our religion as degrading, is this reception into its communion of the lowest castes and outcasts, whom they hold in the utmost horror, and whose very touch they avoid with the utmost circumspection, as we would the contact of a leper. The natives consequently deem all Europeans, from their indiscriminate ' good-will to all men,' to be of the lowest and vilest caste; because, according to their ideas, outcasts only would admit outcasts. But, nevertheless, the superiority of our genius and intelligence makes its due impression in maintaining our estimation amongst them. There has never been, to my knowledge, an instance of any Hindoo of condition or caste being converted to our faith."

We must extract the description of Nagpoor. " The Jumma Talao, a fine tank, extends nearly the whole way from the residency to the city, and is about three quarters of a mile long and 400 yards broad. This, though a noble tank, is inferior to many others I have seen. In the ruins of the ancient city of Gour, to the east of the Ganges, opposite Rajmahl, there is one of most extraordinary length and breadth, being part of the ancient Hindoo remains, when it was the capital of Bengal.

" In the main street, leading from the gate of the palace, are several Braminical mbuts, or, as we improperly call them,

pagodas, from forty to fifty feet high. They are of white stone, beautifully carved. The old palace stands about 300 yards within this gate, on the right-hand side of the street, and the new palace immediately opposite. We entered a court-yard, through a very handsome grey-stone archway. The front of the palace can boast of nothing very particular, but on entering it, the first quadrangle, surrounded with a colonnade of superbly sculptured black wooden columns, about thirty feet high, with a handsome entablature, and cornice of the same materials, is very striking. The whole is paved with stone, and in the centre is a basin and fountain. This court is about seventy yards square, and has an appearance of barbaric magnificence and unstudied architecture, which is far from unpleasing. To reach the upper apartments, we passed between two walls, up a miserably dark flight of steps, and found the rooms mean and gloomy. I was glad to reach the top of the building, which has a flat stuccoed roof, with battlements. We had here a very good view of the different courts of the palace —all, excepting the one I have described, though a similar colonnade on a reduced scale, runs round them all. Two of these, with apartments between and about them, and a colonnade two stories high, were for the Zunana, or women's quarters. Every court has a bath and fountain in the centre, and curtains to raise or let down at pleasure, to shelter those in the colonnade from bad weather or cold. I made my way with difficulty into these apartments; but did not observe any thing remarkable. On each side was a kitchen fitted up with stoves, and lighted by windows forty or fifty feet from the ground (the cieling being at the height of the house), and the smoke must have found its way through them or the roof, as there were no chimneys. In short, from what the Zunana presented, the descriptions of the ladies' apartments in the Arabian Nights Entertainments was far from realised in his highness's palace. We inspected the stables, where we saw an elephant which had been hit by a spent cannon-ball, and had a very deep dent on its side from the blow, but the skin was not broken; our principal inducement, however, for visiting the stable, was the fame of a little horse four years old, and only thirty-three inches high. This diminutive creature was, I think, the most beautiful model of a horse in miniature I ever saw. It was very playful, perhaps vicious, and when I stood across it on tiptoe, it attacked my knees on its sides, striving to bite them."

In chapter viii. Colonel Fitzelarence gives an intelligent account of the events which had occurred at Nagpoor, a short time before his arrival, and which led to the reduction of that

city, but as they belong, like the introductory chapters, to other topics than his journey, we pass them over, and resume "the personal narrative."

The author having left Nagpoor, continued his route to Omery Comery. He gives a lively description of Namdar-Khan, a Newab, who has a great passion for English customs and manners; but the details are too minute to be extracted for this work. We cannot, however, dispense with his description of the Fikirs.

"In the numerous accounts of Indian armies, published in England, notice has not, I believe, been taken of the Fikirs, who attach themselves to regiments while in the field, and who live by begging. When troops are coming off the march, and approaching their new ground, these vagabonds, who live on the superstition of the natives, seat themselves about a mile from the camp, and spread a coloured carpet before them to receive the offerings of the Sepoys. They have a small flag near them, and beat a tom-tom, or drum, accompanying it with a begging whining song, and their carpet is very soon covered with *pice* (a small copper coin) and couries. Many of this class of holy mendicants make vows of painful penances. I have seen some of them, who have allowed their hands to remain so long clenched, that the nails have grown out through the back of the hand. I have also seen others, whose arms held upright over the head, had become stiff in every joint. They occasionally undertake to measure their length from their houses to some sacred temple or Ghaut; and I had an opportunity of witnessing one in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, who was performing this penance. He laid himself upon the ground on his face, and then getting up, advanced two long steps about equal to his height, then again lay down, and continued this absurd pilgrimage as long as I observed him, and doubtless to his destined spot. But the most singular penance I ever heard of was in Bengal. At a certain feast in the autumn, a number of Hindoo devotees erect a large mast in an open place in the neighbourhood of the village, with a moveable yard across the top of it; from this yard a rope with an iron hook is suspended, the end of the yard being brought down near the ground, a Brahmin passes the hook through the muscles of the back of one of the devotees, between the shoulders, and, the lever being depressed at the other end, the miserable fanatic is drawn up in the air, and the yard being moved on a pivot with great rapidity, he, swinging out in almost a horizontal position, amidst the screams and shouts of the crowd, throws flowers on them. But the most inhuman of all their barbarous customs is the

following: when a sick person is given over, by way of ensuring him eternal salvation, they carry the helpless creature to the banks of the river, and stuff his eyes, mouth, and nose with clay: should he recover after this extreme unction, he loses caste, and becomes an outcast from his friends and relations, and virtually dead to the whole world."

"The personal narrative" sustains a farther interruption by an account of the operations of the army of the Dekhan, and we resume it at the fourteenth chapter.

At Rowsah, the author visited the Rajah. "We were received by him at the door, and conducted into a very handsome viranda, well lighted with chandeliers; in front of it, was a large piece of water and fountains, on the other side of which, reflected in the water, was a very splendid illumination with many globes, and differently shaped figures formed of lamps, continually revolving, which had a very beautiful effect. After seeing some very bad mimics, we were informed that our dinner was ready, and proceeded to another court, where, in a viranda very elegantly lighted, we found a table furnished; an excellent Persian dinner was served up, consisting of some very good dishes, and the bread, with poppy-seeds in the crust, was very delightful; our repast had, however, one advantage over those of Persia: our beverage being madeira, hermitage, and claret, at which, after sitting one hour, we returned to the viranda. Some bad fire-works were exhibited, being inferior to the generality, as the natives are very successful in these matters; but the short notice I had given did not permit the powder to dry. After we had seen these, a celebrated singer was introduced, who sang tolerably well, not only Persian but Hindoo songs, accompanied by tom-toms, and two instruments not unlike guitars. This man, with the set of mimics, and two sets of Nautch women, are always in the rajah's pay, and are part of his household and state; he receives 300 rupees a month, equal to £37, and the mimics and Nautch women from 300 to 400 a set. I am told, that a singer, a woman at Hyderabab, is in such repute, that she will not sing under 500 rupees a night; she must be the Catalani of the east! These mimics are the worst kind of buffoons, and accompany their acting by silly remarks and execrable attempts at wit. I recollect seeing a set when I was in Hindoostan, in 1815, who, in ridicule of our cutchery, or court of justice, went through a trial, in which the judges were supposed to be Europeans. The offender, when about to enter on his defence, is interrupted by a servant, who announces that dinner is ready, and the judges start up, pronounce the

prisoner guilty, condemn him to be hanged, and run off to table." Has not Pope, the poet, said—

" And culprits hang, that jurymen may dine."

The description of the visit to the caves of Ellora, must be given.

" My eyes and mind are absolutely satiated with the wonders I have seen: the first are weary with objects so gigantic and extraordinary, to which they were totally unaccustomed; and the latter has been so much on the stretch, being crowded and overwhelmed with ideas so overpowering and various, that I despair of ever forming any calm judgment of them. The gross superstition, (the cause of their formation,) becomes even respectable and venerable, from the admiration which I experienced of these early and stupendous works of human genius, of unremitting toil and perseverance. I felt a sensation of gratitude, and almost of esteem, towards the religion which had effected a labour so immense and remarkable. Every thing around me spoke of other times, of individuals, nations, and arts, long since passed away; and I took a hurried view of the state of India, looking in vain for any power or class of men, great, or I may almost say omnipotent, enough to venture on so prodigious an undertaking, a work which has successfully withstood the barbarous attempts of the Mahometans, and outlived the name or æra of its founder, which is hidden in the most remote antiquity. The Bramins and Hindoo nations, in their original purity, long before our era, who had here concentrated their religious institutions and power, made the very mountains subservient to their superstition; and the various changes which had taken place throughout India, during the last 2000 years, all passed with the velocity of a vision; and, as I stood in Keylas, casting a rapid glance from these ages, concealed in impenetrable darkness, in which the stupendous monuments of art before me had arisen, down to the present moment, I sought in vain for any incident in the lapse of time which could convey an equal conception of the power of man over matter. And here that national and personal vanity, which I have already confessed, prompted me to ask myself whether the object of amazement, next to this in the history of India, was not that of the inhabitants of an island in the outskirts of Europe, unknown even by name in these regions, till they were seen first as merchants and then as conquerors; and who, during little more than half a century, had by a gradual extension of military operations, terminating in these which formed the subject

of the despatches with which I was charged, established over the country an influence or dominion which may now be said to be universal. These ideas, with the magnitude of the works around me, all tended to set cool reflection at defiance; yet the multitude of fast forming and overwhelming thoughts have left an indelible though indistinct impression, and now only present the difficulty in putting them on paper, of repressing their rapid rise, and allowing the tumult of my mind to subside.

"A period of time has elapsed, since the first excavation of the caves of Ellora, so immense, that even their sanctity has been effaced; for though containing, in a perfect state, the deities at this moment worshipped in the Hindoo mythology, yet no pilgrim now visits them, nor are they in any manner, or to any one, (except a cursory traveller) an object of veneration. Whatever may have been the cause of the erection of the stupendous buildings in Egypt, or the religious feeling which prompted their construction, I am not surprised that a satisfactory account of their founders and era has been lost in ages so remote, as to leave in existence no remains of that worship, except themselves and tradition. But here, where the very same religion still maintains its ground, that these surprising monuments should be held in such a degree of disrespect cannot well be explained, unless upon the supposition that the excesses of the Mahometans, who entered the most sacred places, may have rendered them impure, and thus have deprived them of their former holiness.

"We descended the face of the hill, which is of red granite and very steep, and enjoyed a fine view of the extensive plain beneath us, with the village of Ellora about a mile from the foot, embossed in trees. The rest of the plain had, however, rather an arid appearance. About two-thirds down the hill, which, Captain Lydenham informed me, was hollowed for near two miles into vast halls and chambers, we came in front of the great excavation called in sanscrit Keylas, or Paradise. From having had my expectation raised to the highest pitch, I was in the beginning greatly disappointed. The first object which strikes the traveller is a gateway, having apartments over it, connected with the sides of the hill by two walls, with coarse battlements, and apparently built across an old stone quarry; and above, and on each hand within the gateway, are seen a confused crowd of pagodas and obelisks, so that, should a stranger view it from the outside, not being aware of the peculiarity of the work, he would wonder at the task of thus burying so many buildings in so obscure a situation. But, on approaching the wall and gate, you search in

vain for the usual separation of stones in buildings, and the whole is found to be one mass of rock. This is, however, capable of being accomplished by manual labour, without any great exertion; and it is only on entering the gateway, and passing into the immense area, 247 feet long, 150 broad, and 100 feet high, and viewing the principal temple, supported by stone elephants, and bearing in mind that this stupendous, yet elaborately worked mass, is formed of kindred material with the coarse perpendicular wall of stone which shuts you in on three sides, that the astonishment and admiration is felt, which, far from wearing off, I think increases on reflection. On entering the gate, which has several rooms over it, the first object which presents itself, immediately opposite, is a colossal figure about ten feet high, surrounded with sculpture; and two small elephants joining their trunks above his head. This important personage is in a sitting posture, and, by being daubed with red paint, is rendered, if possible, more hideous than when he started from his mother rock. The openings into the area are to the right and left. Facing these openings, in the bottom of the area, stand two stone elephants, of the size of life, both more or less mutilated, and with no other decoration than two coarse ropes carved round their bodies. It is from the vicinity of these elephants that the eye and mind first explore and comprehend the whole of the exterior of the great pyramidal temple, ninety feet high, in the centre of the excavation. The minute and beautiful carving on the outside is very happily contrasted with the cliff around. From the elephants, about thirty feet further, are two beautiful obelisks, stated to be thirty-eight feet high, covered with carving, and not only light in appearance, but much relieved by each compartment or story being variously and beautifully sculptured. These are very perfect. The main temple stands rather towards the further end than in the middle of the area, and is connected with the apartment over the gate by a small temple, in which stands the Bull Nundee; and beyond it, by a sort of bridge, directly over the figure seen on entering, and over the openings into the area opposite to the elephants, all similarly cut out of the solid rock. The bull is not large, and rather disfigured. The centre temple has several smaller, and not so high, beyond it, which, from the neighbourhood of the elephants, appear attached to it, but are not so in reality, except by the floor of rock, which leaves the whole as if supported by the statues of animals, projecting more or less from the solid mass, some with half their bodies protruded from it, others with only the heads and fore-quarters. The principal of these are

elephants, of the size of life, and lions larger than life, with some imaginary animals. For the sake of diversity, these statues are all in different attitudes; several are in fierce conflict with their neighbours, and all looking as if executed at the whim of the workmen. The feet, talons, ears, trunks, tusks, &c. have suffered much, it is supposed, from the intemperate zeal of the Mahometans.

"The distance from the sides of the temple to the face of the scarped-work is more than forty feet on each side, and it is painful to look up for any length of time. The flights of steps, of which there are two, ascending to the floor, supported by the animals on which the temple is formed, are on each side, and rather beyond the smaller temple and the gateway. On the outside only there is much sculpture in nine rows of figures, about a foot long, of men fighting, some armed with bows, others with clubs, and long straight swords. On the right side, among others, are some figures in cases, with two and four wheels, drawn by horses, and monkeys seem in every part to be very active, and by no means second-rate performers. This is supposed to allude to the conquest of Ceylon by Rama; but as I do not understand the Hindoo mythology, I shall not attempt to unravel the meaning of these carved records, as doubtless they are, but leave it to others who are versed in "mystic lore." It may just be mentioned, that the image of Steenomaun is represented in leaving rocks to form the bridge between the continent and Ceylon. The steps turn inwards about half their rise, and meet on an uncovered landing-place between the small temple containing the bull and the great temple, about three or four feet below the level of the latter. The door facing the west, twelve feet high by six wide, ornamented with colossal statues on each side, is now before you; and, on ascending, I believe four steps, and passing between the gigantic statues, you arrive at the great chamber of the principal temple: though, for the first five minutes after you enter, the gloomy light does not permit you to see distinctly, which, added to the dead silence, the massy pillars, and the Goliah-like figures at the other end, but partially discerned, together with the feeling inspired in the area, tends to absorb the faculties; yet I gazed in mute admiration.

"The interior, from the door to the recess at the other end, is 103 feet long, sixty-five wide, and the height but seventeen, and I think the lowness of the roof adds materially to the effect. The size of the pillars being in thickness out of proportion with their height, bespeak the weight above, and excite the peculiar sensation of a desire to crouch when

inside. It was then I felt the real circumstances of the mighty wall around me. There had the perseverance of man ornamented a mass coeval with the world; and which, differing from all other temples on the face of the earth, had grown like a statue from an uncouth block, under the hands of an artist; and my feelings did justice to the designer and workman. It is sustained by four rows of pillars, not above four being of the same workmanship, the shafts minutely carved, but the capitals quite plain; and the roof, between these supports, appears resting on an imitation of great beams crossing and fastening on the capitals of the columns. The roof is plain, excepting the centre, which has a round medallion in basso-relievo, representing a man between two female figures, though that on the left is almost destroyed, and appears by accident or design to have been detached from the roof, and to have fallen, leaving a mark of what is the original colour of the stone, nearly the whole of the interior having been blackened by Aurungzebe, who, to show his contempt for the opinions of the Hindoos, filled it with fuel, which he caused to be set on fire. It would, however, almost have bid defiance to his cannon; and, with the other caves in its vicinity, exists to this day a wonder of the world, only equalled by the pyramids, and likely to stand to the end of time as firmly as the neighbouring hills. Opposite the entrance is a recess, the **Sanctum Sanctorum**, with a group of colossal figures on each side, whose hands touch the roof. This recess runs back about forty feet on the outside, beyond the back wall of the temple, and contains the lingam. On each side of the centre of the great chamber, protruding into the area, are open porticos, and their roofs, supported by pillars, resting like the other parts, on elephants. The four centre pillars of the interior of the temple are wanting, thus leaving an open passage from the door of one portico to the other. These are rather below the level of the floor of the temple, and are richly sculptured throughout, and instead of pilastres to uphold the roof, on each side of the doors of the main temple are two female figures, twelve feet high, whose heads touching the cornice, appear to stand, yet in a graceful attitude, under the weight they sustain. It will be recollectcd and observed, how strong a similarity these figures have to the Caryatides of the Greeks; and I believe it would be a difficult question to solve, whether the Indians borrowed them from that people, or *vice versa*. The porticos have seats, on one of which I attempted to cut my name, at the expence of my knife. From that which is to the south of the temple, there is supposed to have been, and appearances countenance the idea, a bridge

thrown across the area to the excavated hall of the cliff, with which there is now no communication from below, as there is with those on the northern sides. Behind the recess, or *Sanctum Sanctorum*, is a balcony, or open gallery, which passes from two doors, one on each side of the colossal groups, out of the great chamber, round its side, and the end of it, and has five smaller temples of a similar shape to the principal one, two on the sides, and three at the eastern terminations, which complete the whole structure. They are all sculptured in the same manner, and supported by animals beneath, of which I fancy there must be in all from eighty to one hundred. The roofs of the great and small temples gradually rise to points, and the outside walls are all carved in pannels of grotesque and obscene figures. The whole has, at some late period, received a coating of sand-coloured plaster, which has been painted over in different colours; and even now, though more than half destroyed, takes much from the sculpture. The architect was not content with perforating this gigantic wall in the centre, but has excavated the face of the cliff on each side three or four stories, each twenty feet in height, and of considerable depth, *into the rock*; these I had not time to enter, as the other caves I had to visit extended to the north and south, about three quarters of a mile each way. When one considers the immense labour expended on Keylas, where nothing but the chissel and hammer could be used, which differs from all other temples in not being built, but formed by the superfluous rock being torn from it, and the construction of which is so contrary to the usual principles (as blocks of stone were carried from, not to it, for completion), one hardly knows which to admire most, the projector, or the person who carried the design into execution. Yet I feel almost a partiality for the former; for in what an original and expanded mind must the idea first have been conceived of hollowing and decorating, by the hand of man, a very "rib of the world," spurning the detail of piece-meal building, and thus taking advantage of the primeval materials placed by nature on the spot, and wresting from her very bowels a place of worship? Some of the sculptured decorations, and the taste of the ornaments, would do credit to the best period of the Grecian school, though, in general, evidently an uncultivated style of architecture predominates, and the irregular shapes and devices on the shafts of the pillars, with their plain capitals, in the principal temple, are, in my opinion, more rich than the plain Grecian pillar with its ornamented capital, though not so chaste. The fluting of the Corinthian order is but a poor attempt of this description. Some of the minute ornaments

are even classical. I observed, in several instances, the bust of a man, from the head to the middle, ending in a scroll or flourish, &c. ; and the wings of birds, having similar terminations. The lions' heads, with flourished ornaments from their mouths, I have often seen used in modern furniture in Europe. Nearly the entire bodies of the largest figures project from the wall, and there is not throughout the whole a single arch. Immediately on the outside the gateway is a cistern of very fine water, which being also cut out of the granite wall, would, in any other spot, be a curiosity itself, but here, for an extent of nearly two miles, man has gone beyond himself! Captain Sydenham heard one of the sepoys lecturing another before the rest, for expressing doubts of its being the work of the gods !

" Having gratified our curiosity in this part, we then proceeded to the southward, along a bad and dangerous path, to visit the other caves, but I saw none at all like Keylas. This was called the Das Avatar, or the ten incarnations of Visnu. It is supported by several rows of pillars, and penetrates into the mountain forty-six feet, terminating in a recess. On the sides, in compartments, are groups of figures as high as the roof. The supporting columns in the cave are not ornamented, being plain and massy. We last of all passed into the Do Taul and Teen Taul, two very fine caves, similar to that I have just mentioned, except that one consisted of two stories, and the other of three. They contained groups of gigantic figures, from five to six or more in a compartment. In one of the three caves I have mentioned, I entered a small room, out of which three doors led into dark apartments; but it would be a fatal step to any one who should attempt to advance, as they are large caverns full of water. The most southern cave I visited, is, for several reasons, the most remarkable after Keylas, though not so large or so curiously wrought. It is similar to the interior of a chapel, having an arched roof, and the only one so formed amongst so many. It has a line of columns passing down each side of quite plain shafts, little or no capitals, and, without any real use, a representation of arched rafters, as if supporting the rock above. At the further end is a figure in a sitting posture, with a tree spreading over him. This cave is in length seventy-nine feet, forty-three in breadth, and thirty-eight high, from the centre of the arch to the floor. In short, this is, whether antecedent to, or of later date than the rest, of a totally different style, and even apparently belonging to a different religion."

We cannot with propriety follow our ingenuous author through all his various, distinct, and animated descriptions of

this wonderful place. We must, therefore, refer our readers to the book itself, while we still notice a few of the most remarkable things mentioned in the personal narrative.

The description of Dowlutabad, a fortress, is not unworthy of following the account of Ellora. "It is formed of an insulated hilt of granite, about 3000 yards from the range of the hills to the northward and westward, and presents to the view a shape not unlike a compressed bee-hive, except that the lower part, for one third of the way up, or, perhaps, less, is scarped like a wall, and presents all round a perpendicular bluff cliff. I should think it must be about 500 feet to the summit, which is about a point. The scarp of the rock down to the edge of the counter-scarp may be 150 feet, though the governor stated it to be eighty yards; the breadth of the ditch seventeen, and that of the water eighteen. Up to the ditch, including the outside walls of the pettah, I had passed four lines of walls and gates, and it was very easy to account for this lavish number of defences; for had they not "worked up" the quantity of stone taken from the wall, it would have formed a small hill. The causeway across the ditch will not admit more than two persons at one time, and a building with battlements defends it on the other side.

"Had I not been informed how I was to ascend the summit of the perpendicular cliff, I should have despaired of ever reaching it, as no visible means presents itself, and all is alike steep and forbidding; though one may, with an attentive eye, discover a small window, about half-way up, in the face of the rock. I was anxious to proceed, being determined to mount to the top; and the governor led the way through one excavation into the heart of the rock, so low that I was obliged to stoop nearly double; but, after a few paces, a number of torches showed me I was in a high vault, and we began to ascend on a winding passage, cut through the interior of the body of the hill. The passage was about twelve feet high and the same broad, and the rise regular; and at certain distances from this dismal gallery were trap-doors, with flights of small steep steps leading to the ditch below, only wide enough to admit a man to pass, also cut through the solid rock to the water's edge, and unexposed to the fire of the assailants, unless they were on the very crest of the glacis. I suppose we were four or five minutes in reaching the window I had seen from below; and, after resting, we continued to climb. As I observed a passage leading off from the one in which we were, I followed it, and, to my surprise, found it led back, forming a retrogressive semicircle to our road, and on the sides of it were many recesses and shelves for depositing stores. We

might have been in all ten minutes mounting by torch-light, and came out by a sort of hollow in the rock, about twenty feet square. On one side, leaning against the cliff, was a large iron plate, nearly of the same size as the bottom of the hollow, with an immense iron poker. On the besiegers having gained the subterraneous passage, this iron is intended to be laid down over the outlet, and a fire placed upon it. I observed a hole perforating the rock about three feet in diameter, which is meant to act as a bellows to the fire, and the current of air which came through it was so strong that I hardly could stand against it. From its strength, and these various precautions, this fortress is deemed impregnable."

The work of this intelligent officer is calculated to make the people at home better acquainted with India than any other that ever fell into our hands, not only by the mass of information, but by the spirited manner in which it is supplied. We mention with particular pleasure, that the great canal of Delhi, which intersected a hundred miles of country, and was fallen into great decay, is, under the judicious orders of the Marquis of Hastings, now cleaning out—an act of true beneficence, and calculated to bring its own reward, in an immediate improvement of the revenue and of the country.

The general reflections, which are thickly interspersed among the military details, often show considerable information, and possess always strong marks of good sense and generous feeling; but it is impossible to separate these constitutional qualities from the substance of the work.

While at Poonah, Colonel Fitzclarence visited the palace of the Peishwah, and, as it is described by him, to be similar to the one he saw at Nagpoor, of which we have extracted his description, it is unnecessary to notice it more particularly, with the exception of one apartment.

"We now proceeded to the holy chamber, dedicated to a deity who could boast of an elephant's head and trunk, and who, to complete the interest he excited, was painted blue. He was sitting cross-legged, but we did not find this sapient gentleman ready to receive us; for, after rummaging about, he was discovered put by in a cupboard to keep him from the dirt and flies. The room is vaulted, and about fifty feet long and very high, with a gallery that runs round it, like our music-galleries in ball-rooms. It is one mass of mirrors, intermixed with green foil, inlaid with gilt wooden partitions, and numbers of English cut-glass chandeliers.

"Mr. Coats showed me the Peishwah's sleeping-room, hung round with very large mirrors, and lighted with English glass shades. His bed, which was orange velvet, hung like a swing

from the cieling. A picture of Nana Fernavez, the greatest statesman of his day, who presided many years over the councils of this court, seated by the side of a former Peishwah, who, about thirty years ago, threw himself from the top of the palace, was also pointed out to me."

The two next chapters, xx. and xxi. consist of a narrative of military and political transactions at Poonah; which we shall omit, and accompany our author in "the personal narrative" of his journey from that capital to Bombay.

There appears to be no end to the sculptured wonders of India, and Colonel Fitzelarence's book makes us acquainted with more of them, as viewed by the same individual, than any other work in the English language. In going from Poonah to Bombay, he visited the cave of Carli, of which we must give his account.

"I had always determined to see the cave of Carli, about two miles from the village of that name; and the officer stationed there, and one of those I had met, proposed to accompany me, taking twelve men as a protection against the Arabs, who sometimes came over from the fortress to collect the revenues of the sacred spot. I mounted a horse of my escort, and we set out, after I had requested Mr. Elliot, with my palanquin and escort, to proceed on the road, as I intended to ride across the country after them. At the foot of the range of hills, similar in appearance and character to those at Ellora, we dismounted, and began to scramble up the mountain by a very bad and narrow path, little better than a water-course, and all suffering much from the heat. We soon reached a narrow terrace on a level with the cave, where we were well repaid for our exertion. This cave, like those at Ellora, also faces the west, but is in other respects different from them. The entrance is much more handsome than any at Ellora, having been ornamented with two obelisks in the style of that at India Sabha. One of these pillars, of which both are crowned with lions, has been broken down, and the whole very much defaced. A plain Mahometan tomb, evidently a modern work, is built immediately in front. The height of the entrance appears to be sixty feet. After passing the remaining pillar, we entered a sort of vestibule, about thirty feet wide, and extending along the face of the rock, about thirty yards. The ends have figures of elephants, projecting from the walls, similar to those at Ellora, and above them many and various ornaments.

"On crossing the vestibule, we advanced into the cave, which is about eighty or ninety feet long, and thirty broad, supported by thirty-eight square stone pillars, with a passage

round, between them and the rock. These pillars have very curious capitals, consisting of two elephants, with a male and female figure on the back of each. All these appear pressed down by the incumbent weight, the elephants being nearly upon their knees. The roof is arched to a considerable height above the pillars, which may be, with their capitals, rather more than twenty feet high. At the farther end, is a large round mass of rock, like a tomb, about twelve feet high, rather more in diameter and terminating in the top in a cupola, about twenty feet in all; and over the centre of it, suspended from the top, hangs what appeared to me to be an imitation of the shell of an immense tortoise, about ten feet long, resembling a canopy to the tomb-like mass below. I could pass round to the back of this, the wall of the rock being pared off to admit a person behind it; but to save trouble, time, or expence, the colonades on each side are not continued behind the tomb-like mass, though this is not perceived by a spectator standing at the entrance, or a little way within the hall. On the remaining pillar, on the outside and round the door-way, is an inscription in a very extraordinary character, which I regret I had not time to copy.

"We proceeded, after examining this, to some other excavations, which were in all probability the habitations of the priests. They have been all much damaged intentionally; and the stair-case by which we ascended to a suite of rooms, hangs from the rock to which it was attached, the first three or four steps which reached to the terrace foundation being broken off. We mounted, by two flight of steps and a ladder, to a large low room, about thirty feet square, and having, on the three sides towards the rock, a number of small cells, of about eight feet square, with common sized door-ways leading into them. This was well lighted from a sort of gallery, with windows cut on the outside of it. The officer who accompanied me, fired off one of the Sepoy's musquets in the chamber, and the violent echo and long-continued reverberation, now at a distance, now returning with increased violence and thrilling through the enormous mass overhead, the noise surpassing thunder, but of a more hollow tone, was the most awful and overpowering sound I ever remember to have heard. I almost hoped, after the second return of the aggravated roar, that it was the last; but I was mistaken, and peal after peal followed in quick succession, and lasted several minutes, giving one the idea that the rock, indignant at its stillness being broken in upon, expressed its displeasure previous to closing the disturbers in its embrace for ever ***. I felt a chill creep through my frame, which I never recollect hav-

ing experienced in any former instance ; so much so, that if it had been proposed to fire a second musquet, the impression made upon me would have caused me to object to it * * *. I am convinced that fear arises, next to what precautionary nature has given for self-preservation, from entering into scenes to which we are not accustomed ; and that the most admirable sort of courage, called self-possession, is only to be acquired by being used to trying situations of all kinds, or the determination of mind made up to meet certain crises, however novel, with fortitude. In this instance, my mind, being overcharged with wonders and thoughts on the novelty of all around me, gave way to this sudden turbulent and distracting noise, which, I confess, dismayed me, and nearly put me to the rout.

" Large subterraneous cisterns, full of water, are cut out of the rock, as at Ellora. Some Bramins have taken possession of the rooms, and a little colony was established in the great cave, their clothes being hung to dry upon ropes fastened from one pillar to another. There is another cave, but the route is so difficult, and the precipice near which you pass so dangerous, that I did not attempt it, especially as I am tired with having travelled all night, and anxious to reach this place. The whole work has been evidently much injured, and, as usual, the blame is laid to the Portuguese ; but it is still more likely to have been done by the Mahometans, as we have seen at Elloa.

" I took leave of my two companions, and could just perceive the shining of the arms of my escort, two miles on the road, from which I was about a mile to the north. I struck across the country to head it, galloping pretty fast, and, at the foot of a little hill saw, to my surprise, from a direction whence I could not expect friends, a native horseman, armed with a spear, coming towards me at full speed. I concluded he was one of the enemy, and my alarm and consternation, on discovering my situation, will never be erased from my memory. I found I was totally helpless, having, without thought, most imprudently thrown myself on the first horse I met with, and left my sword in my palanquin ; the pistols in the holsters were unloaded, and I had no ammunition. He fortunately turned out to be one of my own escort, which was waiting under some trees off the road till I arrived."

The following description of the general appearance of India in that part of the peninsula, where the traveller was now passing, is striking, and executed with superior talent.

" As we approached the limits of the great table-land of India, south of the Norbuddah, the country became less cul-

tivated, and more romantic ; and, within a mile of this termination, the views became every instant more magnificent. The bare points of the rocks and hills appeared above the trees and verdure ; and the immense mountain to the south of the pass, which overhangs the plain, is seen threatening all below. The vast chasms, perpendicular walled valleys, many hundred feet beneath the level of the land on which I stood, were finer than any thing I had ever beheld ; and the numerous forts on the different pinnacles of the mountains, some near and others more distant, added to the sublimity of the scene. I wished for a glimpse of the sea, and I have since been told, that from one particular spot this can be obtained ; though my longing eyes were disappointed in viewing that which an Englishman feels to be next neighbour to his native country."

The excavations of Elephanta did not appear to him wonderful, after the others he had visited.

Chapter xxiii. consists of a number of observations on the objects and persons that attracted his attention in Bombay, but affords no passage that we can extract, as particularly remarkable ; the general account, however, partakes of the spirit, patriotism, and good sense, which pervades the whole volume. Here he embarked for Egypt. Nothing interesting occurred during their voyage. But the description of the Egyptian coast, on approaching Cossier, is a picture.

" Still the town was to be discovered ; for it is difficult to be seen, owing to the houses being of the same colour as the sand on which they are built. The sterile and desolate appearance of the shore, the emerald mountains and broken ground presented a combination of all the horrid accounts of the most inhospitable shores that ever hero of romance landed on. We were under greater disadvantages than these adventurous characters ; for should the governor of Cossier be unable to assist us by mortal means, we could not expect any help from a friendly magician to cross that part of the country between it and Khenne on the Nile, so forbiddingly filled up in D'Anville's map as the " Great Desert." I had, when at a distance, observed some spots more dark than the rest, differing considerably from the several shades of the brown sandy and thirsty colour which predominated ; and had hoped, on approach, they would have proved patches of verdure. But, alas ! they were only cavities deeper than the others."

Having made the necessary arrangements for crossing the " Great Desert" at Cossier, our enterprising traveller left that town about nine o'clock in the evening. When I had skirted the town, " I found myself," says he, " in a few minutes surrounded by rocks on all sides, and felt as forlorn as when I

quitted the camp of the governor-general. I had the rope of the camel's head in my hand, and I found the motion unpleasant, as is that of all animals which move two legs on the same side at one time. I learnt that we were to proceed at a foot's pace the whole way; and, after two hours travelling, was much alarmed with respect to the motion of the animal; for, about that time, I felt a most violent pain in my side and back, and this continued to increase, so that I was obliged to dismount and walk.

"About twelve o'clock we arrived at the first watering-place, called Ambojar, about nine or ten miles from Cossier, and the moon soon after arose, and showed me the barrenness around. The road in general was shut in on both sides by masses of rock, except where little plains of sand extended, dotted with large stones; and behind those, on the sides, others more distant raised their heads above in the wildest confusion, and most fantastic shapes and different colours. Avenue after avenue, thus bounded, continued to present themselves. I again mounted my camel, and became more easy upon its back. About two o'clock my guards complained of being tired, and wished to lie down; but I was resolved, and did not stop till about an hour after, when the return of pain obliged me to rest, and we all dismounted, tied the camels' legs, and those who accompanied me soon fell asleep. But, although I was very much exhausted, the new situation in which I was placed prevented me from sleeping. It is on such occasions that I feel repaid for all fatigues and difficulties; then I reflect on the novel and curious circumstances of my position, and contemplate the difference between the manners and feelings of countries more or less civilized, and those most refined —the moon was beautiful. I had always understood, that this desert consisted of a great expanse of sand, but it was masses of irregular rock, of all shapes and heights, from twenty to 100 feet perpendicular; and, where they are low enough to see beyond them on the road-sides, all appear alike, dreary and frightful. Large cliffs, of many tons weight, frowned from the slanting sides, and appeared to require only a touch or a breath to precipitate them into the road. Some formed perfect cones, and the stone was generally of a red colour. We often passed small open spots, from about 100 yards to a mile square. The sharp edges of the rock, in many places, shewed through the sand, and the whole was bounded by masses on masses of rocks piled on each other in the most splendid wilderness."

The following little incident should be added to this impressive and highly original description of the desert:

"I became almost exhausted; but a little after one o'clock

we reached the watering-place. It is called Aumur ; but the disappointment I met with was great, as the only water to be procured, and that in very small quantities, was what dripped from the rocks, and was found in the hollow. The persons who frequent the desert have formed two sorts of cisterns, about eight feet deep, by scraping away the sand till they come to the solid rock, and have hollowed out in it, about eight inches deep, a hole, which on being emptied, as it does not hold above a gallon of water, replenishes itself in a short time. I am confident, that, at the expence of a little gunpowder, wells might be excavated, and a certain and plentiful resource of water be always preserved in this part of the desert. I determined to remain in this spot for three hours, and remembering the small box which the captain's steward had put up for me, I opened it with avidity, and found it contained, perhaps, the only meat I could not have ate ; but I could hardly have supposed I should have had such bad-luck as to find my stock of provisions, in the middle of a desert, where there was a great scarcity of water, a piece of ship's salt-beef. There were, however, some biscuits in the box, and searching lower I discovered, to my astonishment, of all things the most unexpected, and the most welcome, a bottle of English beer. Had it been of adamant I would have forced it open ; and had vast sums been placed at my feet, I should at the moment have refused them rather than forego the delicious draught of malt and hops."

Just before sun-set, on the following day, he came in sight of the Nile. " I despaired the smoke of the villages on the cultivated ground watered by the Nile, and soon after came in sight of the beautiful fields of green barley. I felt a strong desire to dismount and run into them ; and the number of date-trees, houses, lowing of cattle, barking of dogs, and hum of voices, united with the pleasant vegetable smell, awaking the joyful association of civilized life, made a contrast with the desert so forcible, that the sensation I experienced cannot be described * * *. We left the large and straggling village of Benhut on our left, and skirted the cultivation, which extends to the very foot of the hills or rise of the desert, as far as the level of the river will permit its waters to inundate ; and thus there is no gradation, but a sharp line which bounds the most fertile and the most barren districts on earth."

Having thus accompanied Colonel Fitzclarence to Egypt, we shall make a few extracts from his observations on that country ; but in order to enjoy the full force of the narrative, the reader must apply to the book itself.

" The striking similarity of some points in the ancient religion of Egypt, and the present one of India, has been fre-

quently remarked, and, in many instances, there is a singular coincidence; but still does this carry with it conviction of their being more nearly related? Man has, in every country on the face of the globe, certain objects presented to him, which, from the same causes, have become more or less venerated; and the priests have ever, by adding mystery and obscurity to popular superstition, exalted their sublimity under a variety of imposing appearances. It is true that the attachment of the Egyptians to the sacred Bull, and of the Hindoos to that animal, was the same in both countries; but this may originate from this usefulness in agriculture. We have all heard of the sacredness of the stork throughout Europe, on account of its ability in destroying vermin; and, to this day, in Portugal, the laws forbid the killing of calves, except for the sick. From the same motive, I have supposed, was originally engendered the worship of this animal. This early state of feeling may have grown, by the assistance of crafty priests, into veneration and devotion. The worship of the lingam and phallos, common to both nations, certainly affords the most forcible idea and emblem of the universal creative and generative power. The lotus was alike sacred to both, as was an idea of the metempsychooses. The Egyptians have the serpent as a favourite symbol, as well as the Hindoos; but that of the latter is the deadly cobra capella, and is by analogy placed by them in the hands of Seva, the destroying power, as represented in the famous trimurti in the cave of Elephanta, in the harbour of Bombay. It is worthy of remark, that the snake, used in the Egyptian mythology, should be represented with a thick neck, which has never been accounted for. The cobra capella, when in a state of irritability, has a wonderful expansion of the back of the head and throat."

The account of the Wehabees, the Mahomedan reformers, deserves notice, especially as, by recent accounts, it would appear the sect has been nearly suppressed.

"The Wehabees are a sect of puritans of the Mahometans, taking their name from their founder, Abdnl Wehab, who lived about seventy years ago. They had at one time extended themselves across from one sea to the other, and were in possession of Mecca. This brought on a war between them and the Turks, which still continues. They have been driven into the interior; and all the coast of the Red sea, including Mecca, is in the hands of the Turks. They fight on camels, one man facing to the front, and another to the rear, and are armed with musquets. Diodorus Siculus mentions, that the Arabs were, in his time, armed with bows and arrows, and went to war in a similar manner. The custom of fighting on camels has been very general throughout the East. The

ancient armies of the Tartars made use of them. Camels, in Dara's army, in 1658, when it was opposed to that of Auruungzebe, had small swivels on their backs. The rajah of Biccaner, in the deserts of India, has a similar corps. The French, when in Egypt, formed a corps mounted on these animals; and, in India, we have a dromedary corps, the camels carrying a small howitzer, which throws a shell as large as an orange."

It is now generally known that Egypt, under the care of the present vigorous governor, is making rapid advances into a state of prosperity such as it has not enjoyed for ages. The following account of Mr. Brine's sugar-manufactory, will prove interesting to many readers:

"I was fortunate enough to reach Rhodomon about four o'clock; and, at a considerable distance, perceived the fires and smoke from the chimneys of the manufactory. Having landed, I proceeded to the house through a large grove of date-trees. In my way, I passed a spacious garden, containing all the English vegetables. The building was extensive, and, on entering a court-yard, and enquiring for Mr. Brine, I was shewn up-stairs to a sort of covered veranda, where several Europeans advanced to meet me. One I addressed in a modification of Spanish, and then in an attempt at Italian, having been questioned in the latter language; and, after a very awkward conversation on my part for a few minutes, we discovered, to our great amazement, that we were both English. I expressed a wish to see Mr. Brine, who soon made his appearance, having been hurried down from his room by a message that a Russian gentleman wanted to speak to him.

"After some conversation, he acquiesced in my proposition to visit the manufactory. It appears, that he is in partnership with the pacha; that is to say, he has made an agreement to share the three first years' profit with his highness, on condition of teaching a certain number of Turks how to make rum and sugar at his expence. He informed me, that he had once been captain of a merchant-vessel, and did not know much how to make sugar when he commenced; yet he had, by industry and perseverance, succeeded. I went through the several apartments and stores, and found the work was on a very extensive scale, insomuch that it would be able to send fifty tons of sugar to Europe in the spring. He gave me a glass of rum intended for the European market; for the pacha is more a money-making man than a Mahometan, and has no objection to compound intoxicating liquors for us infidels, if we pay well for them. It was very excellent, equal to any rum I ever tasted. I met many Europeans in every part of the manufactory, and learnt that there were no fewer

than forty, principally Italians. Sanguine hopes were entertained of underselling our West-India markets in the Mediterranean."

The description of the person of the present enlightened governor of Egypt, Mahomed Ali, will attract attention:

" His highness was plainly dressed. He is not above five feet nine inches high, but of a most pleasing and open countenance, without any indications whatever of age; on the contrary, he does not seem to be above thirty-nine or forty, though he is older. He sat down with his legs under him on a sofa, with a large pillow to support his back. His manner was delightful, soft, mild, and courtly, such as would bear a comparison with the most polished European prince."

The monumental works of Egypt, after those of India, appeared to Colonel Fitzclarence less wonderful than he expected; and we know not a better rule by which he could have furnished to the European public an idea of the vastness of the latter, the Egyptian fabrics having hitherto been deemed the most astonishing in the world. He ascended the great pyramid; but the details of his visit to those inexplicable structures, although highly interesting, do not afford any particular descriptions which we can select as new. But we must not conclude our analysis of this most entertaining volume without some account of Belzoni, the enterprising and indefatigable Italian, whose single exertions have added more to the knowledge of Egyptian antiquities, than all the learning of the learned since the days of Herodotus. Colonel Fitzclarence describes him as the handsomest man he had ever seen, about six feet six inches in stature. His passion is the love of fame; and for this he is content to pick a scanty living by selling to travellers the reliques that he discovers. It is much to be regretted, that a subscription were not set on foot to enable him to prosecute his researches on a greater scale. " He professes that his great anxiety is to become known to the various antiquaries of Europe, and to be taken by the hand by them. Although he is very far from being in even a state of mediocrity with respect to fortune, he is ambitious of fame and of becoming celebrated for his discoveries. He said, he looked upon it as a fortunate circumstance I had passed through Egypt, and trusted I should be able to speak of him in England so as to bring his merits before a nation to which he declares himself to be most devotedly attached. A great nation, like England, should not miss the opportunity of making their own, a man of such superior talents. He possesses, to an astonishing degree, the secret of conciliating the Arabs, and literally makes them do what he chooses. His

commanding figure, amazing strength and height, which ever have in barbarous countries a great effect, aid him much in his enterprises. In moving the head of the young Memnon, which has been sent to the British Museum, and the bulk of which made the French despair of carrying it away, he had nothing to assist him but what he found on the spot."

Again, before parting from this work, we must repeat our entire satisfaction. It is the most amusing volume of travels that has appeared for many years. Without any pretensions to a learned character, it unites to a highly-animated style, such as few works of learned men ever possess, a degree of information, and a variety of knowledge very extraordinary, considering the active professional life which the author has led; and, if he has not been aided by Mr. Hamilton, the compiler of the Indian Gazetteer, he may lay claim to be ranked among the best topographical writers on India.

II.

Mission from Cape Coast Castle to Ashantee, with a Statistical Account of that Kingdom, and Geographical Notices of other Parts of the Interior of Africa. By T. EDWARD BOWDICH, Esq. Conductor. 4to. pp. 512.

THE Mission left Cape Coast Castle on the morning of the 22d of April, 1817, proceeding in a NN.W. direction. They descended a steep hill into a beautiful valley, covered with pines, aloes, and lilies, the soil exceedingly rich, and the vegetation most luxuriant. The country, indeed, for a considerable extent, appears to be beautiful and romantic.

They entered Coomasie, passing under a sacrifice of a dead sheep, wrapped up in red silk, and suspended between two lofty poles. Upwards of 5,000 people, the greater part warriors, met them with awful bursts of warlike music, discordant only in its mixture; for horns, drums, rattles, gong-gongs, were all exerted with a zeal bordering on frenzy, and they were halted whilst the captains performed a war-dance in the centre of a circle of warriors.

The dress of the captains was a war-cap, with gilded ram's-horns in front, the sides extended beyond all proportion by immense plumes of eagles' feathers, and fastened under the chin with bands of cowries. Their vest was of red cloth, covered with fetishes and sapphies (scraps of Moorish writing, as charms against evil) in gold and silver, and embroidered

cases of almost every colour, which flapped against their bodies as they moved, intermixed with small brass bells, the horns and tails of animals, shells and knives; long leopards' tails hung down their backs, over a small bow covered with fetishes. They wore loose cotton trowsers, with immense boots of a dull red leather, coming half-way up the thigh, and fastened by small chains to their cartouch, or waist-belt; these were also ornamented with bells, horses' tails, strings of amulets, and innumerable shreds of leather. A small quiver of poisoned arrows hung from their right wrist, and they held a long iron chain between their teeth, with a scrap of Moorish writing affixed to the end of it. A small spear was in their left hands, covered with red cloth, and silk tassels; their black countenances heightened the effect of this attire, and completed a figure scarcely human.

"This exhibition continued about half an hour, when we were allowed to proceed, encircled by the warriors, whose numbers, with the crowds of people, made our movements as gradual as if it had taken place in Cheapside; the several streets branching off to the right, presented long vistas, crammed with people; and those on the left, being on an acclivity, innumerable rows of heads rose one above another; the large open porches of the houses, like the front of stages in small theatres, were filled with the better sort of females and children, all impatient to behold white men for the first time; their exclamations were drowned in the firing and music, but their gestures were in character with the scene.

"When we reached the palace, about half a mile from the place where we entered, we were again halted, and an open file was made, through which the bearers were passed to deposit the presents and baggage in the house assigned to us. Here we were gratified by observing several of the caboceers pass by with their trains, the novel splendour of which astonished us. The bands, principally composed of horns and flutes, trained to play in concert, seemed to sooth our hearing into its natural tone again by their wild melodies; whilst the immense umbrellas, made to sink and rise from the jerkings of the bearers, and the large fans waving around, refreshed us with small currents of air, under a burning sun, clouds of dust, and a density of atmosphere almost suffocating. We were then squeezed at the same funeral pace up a long street, to an open-fronted house, where we were desired, by a royal messenger, to wait a farther invitation from the king. Here our attention was forced from the astonishment of the crowd, to a most inhuman spectacle, which was paraded before us for

some minutes; it was a man whom they were tormenting previous to sacrifice; his hands were pinioned behind him, a knife was passed through his cheeks, to which his lips were noosed like the figure of 8; one ear was cut off, and carried before him, the other hung to his head by a small bit of skin; there were several gashes in his back, and a knife was thrust under each shoulder-blade; he was led with a cord passed through his nose, by men disfigured with immense caps of shaggy black skins, and drums beat before him. The feeling this horrid barbarity excited must be imagined. We were soon released, by permission, to proceed to the king, and passed through a very broad street, about a quarter of a mile long, to the market-place.

"Our observations, en passant, had taught us to conceive a spectacle far exceeding our original expectations; but they had not prepared us for the extent of the display of the scene which here burst upon us: an area, of nearly a mile in circumference, was crowded with magnificence and novelty. The king, his tributaries, and his captains, were resplendent in the distance, surrounded by attendants of every description, fronted by a mass of warriors, which served to make our approach imperious. The sun was reflected with a glare scarcely more supportable than the heat from the massy gold ornaments which glistened in every direction. More than a hundred bands burst at once on our arrival, with the peculiar airs of their several chiefs; the heroes flourished their defiances, with the beating of innumerable drums and metal instruments, and then yielded for a while to the soft breathings of their long flutes, which were truly harmonious; and a pleasing instrument, like a bag-pipe without a drone, was happily blended. At last a hundred large umbrellas, or canopies, which could shelter thirty persons, were sprung up and down by the bearers with brilliant effect, being made of scarlet, yellow, and the most showy cloths and silks, and crowned on the top with crescents, pelicans, elephants, barrels, and arms and swords of gold; they were of various shapes, but mostly dome; and the valances (in some of which small looking-glasses were inserted) fantastically scalloped and fringed; from the fronts of some, the proboscis and small teeth of elephants projected, and a few were roofed with leopard-skins, and crowned with various animals, naturally stuffed. The state hammocks, (Query palanquins), like long cradles, were raised in the rear, the poles on the heads of the bearers; the cushions and pillows were covered with crimson taffeta, and the richest cloths hung over the sides. Innumerable small

umbrellas, of various-coloured stripes, were crowded in the intervals, whilst several large trees heightened the glare, by contrasting the sober colouring of nature.

"The king's messengers, with gold breast-plates, made way for us, and we commenced our round, preceded by the canes and the English flag. We stopped to take the hand of every caboceer, which, as their household suites occupied several spaces in advance, delayed us long enough to distinguish some of the ornaments in the general blaze of splendour and ostentation.

"The caboceers, as did their superior captains and attendants, wore Ashantee cloths of extravagant price, from the costly foreign silks which had been unravelled to weave them in all varieties of colour as well as pattern; they were of an incredible size and weight, and thrown over the shoulder exactly like the Roman toga; a small silk fillet generally encircled their temples, and massy gold necklaces, intricately wrought, suspended Moorish chains, inclosed in small square cases of gold, silver, and curious embroidery. Some wore necklaces, reaching to the navel, entirely of aggy beads; a band of gold and beads encircled the knee, from which several strings of the same depended; small circles of gold, like quivers, rings, and casts of animals, were strung round their ankles; their sandals were of green, red, and delicate white leather; manillas, and rude lumps of rock gold, hung from their left wrists, which were so heavily laden as to be supported on the head of one of their handsomest boys. Gold and silver pipes and canes dazzled the eye in every direction. Wolves and ramis'-heads, as large as life, cast in gold, were suspended from their gold-handled swords, which were held round them in great numbers; the blades were shaped like round bills, and rusted in blood; the sheaths were of leopard-skin, or the shell of a fish like shagreen. The large drums, supported on the head of one man, and beaten by two others, were braced round with the thigh-bones of their enemies, and ornamented with their skulls. The kettle-drums, resting on the ground, were scraped with wet fingers, and covered with leopard's-skin. The wrists of the drummers were hung with bells, and curiously-shaped pieces of iron, which jingled loudly as they were beating. The smaller drums were suspended from the neck by scarfs of red cloth; the horns (the teeth of young elephants), were ornamented at the mouth-piece with gold, and the jaw-bones of human victims. The war-caps, of eagles'-feathers, nodded in the rear, and large fans, of the wing-feathers of the ostrich, played around the dignitaries; immediately behind their chairs (which were of

black wood, almost covered with inlays of ivory and gold embossment) stood their handsomest youths, with corslets of leopard-skin covered with golden cockle-shells, and stuck full of small knives, sheathed in gold and silver, and the handles of blue agate; cartouch-boxes of elephant's hide hung below, ornamented in the same manner; a large gold-handled sword was fixed behind the left shoulder, and silk scarves and horses' tails (generally white) extend from the arms and waist-cloth; their long Danish muskets had broad rims of gold at small distances, and the stocks were ornamented with shells. Finely grown girls stood behind the chairs of some with silver basins." But we cannot thus continue to extract all the particulars of this gaudy show of Barbaric pearl and gold; we shall, therefore, pass to the description of the king.

" His deportment first excited my attention; native dignity in princes, whom we are pleased to call barbarous, was a curious spectacle: his manners were majestic, yet courteous; and he did not allow his surprise to beguile him for a moment of the composure of the monarch. He appeared to be about thirty-eight years of age, inclined to corpulence, and of a benevolent countenance: he wore a fillet of aggy beads round his temples, a necklace of gold cockspur-shells strung by their largest ends, and over his right shoulder a red silk cord, suspending three saphies cased in gold; his bracelets were the richest mixture of beads and gold, and his fingers covered with rings; his cloth was of a dark-green silk; a pointed diadem was elegantly painted in white on his forehead; also a pattern resembling an epaulette on each shoulder, and an ornament like a full-blown rose, one leaf rising above another till it covered his whole breast; his knee-bands were of aggy beads, and his ankle-strings of gold ornaments of the most delicate workmanship. Small drums, sankos, stools, swords, guns, and birds, clustered together. His sandals, of a soft white leather, were embossed across the instep, bound with small gold and silver casics of saphies. He was seated in a low chair, richly ornamented with gold; he wore a pair of gold castanets on his finger and thumb, which he clapped to enforce silence."

The object of the mission to this powerful barbarian monarch was to deprecate his frequent inroads on the Fantees; to obtain a reduction of the tribute which he exacted from them, and to propitiate an extension of commerce,—in all of which it appears to have been successful. The details of the negociation are highly curious; but any notice of them does not fall within the plan of our work; it would therefore be improper to make extracts from a correspondence so immediately a matter

of business. We must, however, refer our readers to it, as affording interesting views of manners and character in a stage of civilization, between the savage state and that which we have been accustomed to consider as refined. The condition of the Ashantic state, as described by Mr. Bowdich, is without question an addition to the stock of European knowledge, merely with reference to the gradations of those moral qualities between the highest scales of the vices on the one hand, and the lowest of the settled principles of propriety and virtue on the other. One thing appears certain, that the interior of Africa is not that desert waste which has so long been supposed, but contains populous cities and kingdoms, advanced in some of the nicer arts of civilization. Ilinee, situated on the shores of the lake Dibbie, or Tibber, as it ought more properly to be called, is famed, through the whole African continent, for the ingenuity of its artificers in gold. Judging by the rude specimens of European art, which we are in the practice of sending for the use of the negroes, they consider us as inferior to themselves, especially in the making of golden ornaments.

But as we cannot make extracts of those parts of the correspondence which relates to the business of the mission, we must, in addition to the very full account already given of the appearance of the court, enable our readers to form some notion of the Ashantee king and courtiers; and, for this purpose, we shall quote Mr. Tedlie's interesting interview with the king, when his majesty desired his attendance to exhibit and explain his surgical instruments and medicines.

"The king sent for me this morning, saying, he wished to see the medicines, books, and instruments. I went immediately, and explained, through Quashee, the Accra linguist, the proper use and advantage of each instrument: he was very particular in his enquiries, and asked if I had performed the operations I described: I assured him that I had; and, as a proof, exhibited a piece of bone that I had taken out of an Indian black man's head, in Ceylon, who had been wounded, and who lived. The king held up his hand as a mark of approbation, and all his attendants were astonished. I applied the instruments first on myself, then on the linguists; afterwards on the king's two captains; and, lastly, on the king: nothing could exceed the king's approbation. He then desired me to shew him the medicines; he enquired the virtues and doses of each, what time in the day they should be taken, and whether it was proper to eat or drink after taking them? I told him. He asked if I would sell them? I said no. I brought these medicines for the officers; I could not sell them,

but I would give him as much as I could ; keeping in view, that some of the four officers might be sick ; he said that I was right, but he could not help coveting the greater part of the medicines ; he viewed them all over five or six times, and asked me to give him some of them. I did give him as much innocent medicine as I could with propriety afford ; he thanked me "very much." I then showed him the botanical books ; he was astonished, held up his hand, and exclaimed, hah ! at every brilliant or high-coloured plant which he saw. All his attendants were closely arranged around ; the two captains laid hold of a volume each, and were admiring the flowers ; when either of them ejaculated an admiration, the king would seize it, and ask me what that tree was ? After I had told him the use of them, I said all these trees grow in England ; and the reason the English write all these in a book is, that they may know which is a good tree, and which is bad. He expressed the greatest astonishment at the flax (*linum*), oak "that we build our ships with," poppy "that makes a man sleep," and the sensitive plant (*mimosa*), which he pointed out and described himself. During this time he whispered to one of his attendants, who went out, and returned in a short time with a bit of cloth containing nine ackies of gold ; the king presented it to me ; I accepted it, and returned thanks. He then asked me if I would come and see him at any time he sent for me ; I assured him I would do every thing to please him, consistent with my duty. He shook hands with me, and went into his house. He returned in a short time, leading his sister by the hand, in a manner that would shame many beaux in Europe ; "this is the white Doctor I told you of ; go, and take his hand ; you are sick ; tell him your complaint, he will do you good :" the lady complied with his request. He then said, "give me that gold I gave you, the cloth is not clean ; I want to put it in a clean cloth for you." He then put it in a piece of rich silk, and after he returned the gold he said, "I like you ; I like all the English very much ; they are a proper people, and I wish to drink health with you." He retired to his own apartment, and returned with a flask of gin, and two servants with a silver vase and water and glasses ; he helped himself and me, made a bow, and said, "Sai wishes you good health." I returned the bow, saying, I wish good health to the king, and hope he will never require any of my medicine : when this was explained to him, he held out his glass to me ; we touched and drank. He then took my hand, saying, "If I send my sister to you, will you talk with her ?" I assured him I would talk with and advise all the king's friends, whenever he wished. After I gave all the

medicines I could conveniently part with, he sent for a small Dutch liquor-case ; he desired ten or twelve of his attendants and his eunuch to keep in their heads what I said ; and requested me to repeat again the use and dose of each medicine I gave him, with the proper time and method of using it. I did so. He placed his hand on his head, saying, "Sai recollects what the white Doctor says;" then placing the medicines in the case himself, said, "that good for my head, that good for my belly, that good for my stomach," &c. One of the king's sisters sent a message that she wanted to come and see the white gentleman ; and, shortly afterwards, arrived with her stool and retinue, being head caboceer of a large town. After exchanging compliments, she complained that her left-hand pained her very much. I examined it, but must confess I could not see any thing the matter with it ; however, I rubbed a little liniment on her hand, which seemed to gratify her ; she asked if I would come and see her in the evening ? I answered yes. Quamina, our Ashantee guide, came to conduct me ; he said I must dress, put on my sword and hat, as this woman was a caboceer, and the king's sister ; he would carry my umbrella. When I arrived I found the princess lying on a mat, in one of the inner apartments of the house she occupied ; she ordered a stool for me ; I rubbed some more liniment on her hand ; she wished me to stop and drink palm-wine ; this I declined, alleging the English did not like palm-wine in the evening, because it is sour."

The jealousy with which the Ashantees regarded the mission, conceiving, indeed, with some justice, that, notwithstanding the ostensible objects, it had really come "to spy the country," prevented Mr. Bowdich and his companions from being so minute in their geographical and statistical enquiries as they would otherwise have been ; still he has collected and brought together many facts and much information, which materially enlarges our knowledge of the interior of Africa. But these acquisitions, though of the most valuable kind, cannot be advantageously exhibited in the form of extracts ; nor is it our particular province to examine them with reference to the information previously communicated to the public by other meritorious writers.

On the subject of the religious opinions of the Ashantees we shall, however, indulge ourselves with another copious quotation. They believe that, "In the beginning of the world, God created three white men and three black men with the same number of women ; and he resolved, that they might not afterwards complain, to give them their choice of good and

evil. A large box, or calabash, was set on the ground, with a piece of paper, sealed up, on one side of it. God gave the black men the first choice, who took the box, expecting it contained every thing ; but, on opening it, there appeared only a piece of gold, a piece of iron, and several other metals, of which they did not know the use. The white men opening the paper, it told them every thing.

"God left the blacks in the bush, but conducted the whites to the water-side (for this happened in Africa), communicated with them every night, and taught them to build a small ship, which carried them to another country, whence they returned after a long period, with various merchandize to barter with the blacks, who might have been the superior people.

"With this imaginary alienation from the God of the universe, not a shade of despondency is associated : they consider that it diminishes their comforts and their endowments on earth ; but futurity is a dull and torpid state to the majority of mankind.

"Their fetishes, or subordinate deities, are supposed to inhabit particular rivers, woods, and mountains, as the imaginary deities of the celts. They are venerated in proportion as their predictions (always equivocal) chance to be realized.

"The king's caboceers (nobles), and the higher class, are believed to dwell with the superior deity after death, enjoying an eternal sinecure of the state and luxury they possessed on earth. It is with this impression, that they kill a certain number of both sexes at the funeral customs, to accompany the deceased, to announce his distinction, and administer to his pleasures.

"The spirits of the inferior classes are believed to inhabit the house of the fetish, in a state of torpid indolence, which recompences them for the drudgery of their lives, and which is truly congenial to the feelings of the negro. Those of superior wisdom and experience, are said to be endowed with foresight after death, and to be appointed to observe the lives and advise the good of those mortals who acknowledge the fetish ; their state corresponding, in short, with that of the first race of men after death, as described by Hesiod. Those whose enormities nullify the mediation of the funeral customs, or, whom neglect or circumstances have deprived of it, are doomed, in the imaginations of others, to haunt the gloom of the forest, stealing occasionally to their former abodes in rare but lingering visits. Those who have neglected the custom, or funeral rites of the family, are thought to be accursed and troubled by their spirits."

"The laws of the Ashantee allow the king 3333 wives, which number is carefully kept up." This beats Solomon in all his glory!

"The king has a troop of small boys, who carry the fetish bows and arrows, and are licensed plunderers: they are so sly and nimble, that it is very diverting to watch them in the market-place, which they infest every morning. Sometimes one party trips up a person with a load of provisions, whilst another scrambles them up. The anxious alarm of the market people, and the comic archness of these boys threading the crowd in all directions, is indescribable."

This is the most open and diverting instance of the public robbery of countries that we have ever met with, and with it we shall conclude our extracts of this curious volume.

III.

Letters from the North of Italy, addressed to Henry Hallam, Esq. By W. S. Rose. 2 vols. 8vo.

This work, differing entirely in its character from that of Lieutenant-colonel Fitzclarence, is, of its kind, not inferior to it in interest. It is the leisurely observations of a man of taste and learning, addressed to a congenial spirit, and abounds in a playful amiable humour, calculated to inspire sentiments of affection, somewhat tempered with compassion for the author, whose elegant and gentle mind seems to be ineffectually contending with corporeal infirmity.

Mr. Rose travelled from Paris by the voiturier; a mode which, though tedious, is the best calculated to gratify the curiosity of a stranger in an interesting country. He mentions, that in the convent on Mount St. Bernard, the race of dogs, so celebrated for assisting travellers to distinguish the solid path when covered with snow, is not extinct, as has been commonly supposed; and he commends the good sense of Bonaparte in preserving several mountain-convents as asylums for travellers, "while he smeked out the ecclesiastical drones of the plains." On the top of the Simplon it appears, that he had also begun to erect a caravansera, which remains unfinished, and built several houses on Mount Cenis, likewise, for the accommodation of trayellers; but it was among the earliest acts of the King of Sardinia, after his restoration, to abrogate the means allotted for their support.

The turnpike-gate on the summit of Mount St. Bernard,

exacts considerable tolls (five shillings each, and as much for the carriage), which revenue goes to the canton of the Valais.

In speaking of the inhabitants of Lombardy, so well known throughout the world as pedlars with prints and barometers, Mr. Rose observes, that these itinerant traders generally follow the same beat, and that the natives of the same village usually follow the same trade; so that in various Italian hamlets situated near the Lakes, may be found the customs of England, Spain, or America.

After leaving Aronna, Mr. Rose was much troubled at a town, which he forbears to name, by an Austrian, on account of his passport; and it appeared in the course of the altercation that ensued, that this officer had instructions from the Aulic council, to turn back all travellers, especially English, travelling with passports from Lord Castlereagh, that had not been inspected by some Austrian minister, or diplomatic agent. The passport of our traveller not having been so authenticated, he was obliged to go to Genoa; and in passing the plain watered by the Po, he observed that the colour of all the horned cattle was white, or cream-coloured, and singularly uniform: a belief, indeed, prevails in Italy, that not only the indigenous beasts are white, but that even foreign beeves put on the same livery on drinking the waters of the Po.

But we would do great injustice to the easy elegance of these letters, and the beautiful spirit of kindness which breathes through them, were we to continue this abbreviated analysis. Indeed the correct and valuable information which they contain is so blended with the felicities of literary allusion, that our readers might justly complain were we to confine ourselves to a meagre outline of the places seen, and the objects described. We shall, therefore, extract a few passages that will serve to give an idea of the author's manner, confident that they will be received as some of the happiest little pictures which have appeared since the publication of the far-famed correspondence of Lady Mary Montagu.

At *Volteggio*, a small town upon the *Bocchetta* mountain, "a little scene awaited me which I shall describe as characteristic of the country and its inhabitants. I had fallen upon my breakfast, and a bottle of hill-wine, which then appeared to me delicious, when my attention was excited by a singularly fine voice, though not always in tune with the guitar which accompanied it. I turned round, and saw a boy about sixteen in the door-way, of an extremely prepossessing appearance, whose countenance and manner admirably seconded the subject of his air. I had already woven a little romance for

him in my imagination ; and, on his finishing, called him to me, in order to enquire into his story. His answer was pretty much like that of the knife-grinder, of notorious memory. He was the son of a tobacconist. At the age of nine years he, it seems, arrived at a full conviction of the unprofitableness of this calling, and the poverty of the paternal house. He, therefore, took his resolution ; broke loose, bought a guitar, and from that time forward had wandered about the world. The countenance of this self-taught musician had now resolved itself into a sort of *slangish* style of expression, which amply confirmed the truth of his narrative. He had been before inspired by his song, no uncommon instance of Italian susceptibility."

The description of Genoa, which the author reckons, in point of picturesque beauty, not inferior to Naples, or Constantinople, is given in a few vivid and unaffected touches.

" But Genoa is most impressive in its general exterior, and is best seen from the sea. The figure which it forms approaches nearly to that of a crescent. It is backed by a mountain, which is fringed here and there with low oak-wood and olives, and it looks down upon a beautiful bay. Imagine then to yourself a city, with something of a theatric form, at the base of a mountain, the sloping sides of which are gay with suburban palaces, and gardens full of colonades of trelliswork, covered with the red Oleander now in one blaze of bloom ; add an atmosphere and a sun precisely such as you see represented in the vivid paintings of the Venetian school, and you have Genoa such as I saw it in the month of August."

" I cannot quit Genoa without remarking upon a practice, common all over Italy, but particularly fashionable and most absurd in this city and its neighbourhood : I mean that of painting the exterior of houses with architectural ornaments, and here even with masses of gay colour. This will, perhaps, strike you as mighty meretricious ; but we must not try every thing by the test of our own habits and opinions, since these, when they are right, are possibly only right with reference to our own peculiar situation. In our stern and melancholy climate, this mode of decoration would be something like dancing over graves ; but here, where sun, earth, sea, and sky, make almost perpetual holiday, it seems to harmonise well with the general festivity of the elements."

Amongst the pleasing literary sketches here and there scattered through these agreeable letters, the occasional observations on some of the Italian writers are attractively deserving of notice ; the remarks on *Pindemonte* particularly so.

" I would say, that he was the highly polished poet of a

polished age, who had formed himself entirely upon the models of ancient and modern Italy, and borrowed much of their colouring and style. Thus he deals largely in gods and goddesses, and does not even exclude the abstract train of allegory; but he has not abused these engines. He has no Pan chasing a Lodona* through the rice-grounds of Lombardy, nor are his allegorical figures such as were once sung by our poets, and such as we now see painted on the pannels of a sheriff's coach. His classical mythology is usually made the elegant vehicle of some moral truth, and his allegorical figures have an air of picturesque peculiarity about them, which gives them much of the life and vigour of reality. I said that Pindemente's groups were always picturesque. I might say he was always so in his poems, and more particularly in his rural pieces, which for their chaste style of colouring, their repose and their keeping, may be said to be in poetry what the landscapes of Claude Lorraine are in picture."

Some of our readers will be gratified to learn how the beautiful stucco floors of the Italian houses are formed, the *terrazzi*, as they are called. Mr. Rose's account of the art is told in the unaffected gentlemanliness of his manner, with a perspicuity so perfect, that it may be described as transparent.

"Having formed a substratum of some binding substance, the stucco is laid on. On this, while still wet, are sown small pieces of marble, composed of the sweepings of sculptors' shops, which are rammed down, and the whole pumiced. The ground is then tinged, with due regard to the tints of the marble, which is sown on it, either with a view to gradation or contrast of colour. This done, and the floor well polished, the whole presents the appearance of a beautiful variegated marble. If it is wished to give it additional grace, nothing is more easy than to surround this species of carpet with a border, or to place some ornament in the centre; or to arrange the whole in a regular pattern, as it only requires a little more precision in bestowing the same material. The *terrazzi*, thus composed, if used with common care, will last above half a century.

"The first establishment of a manufacture of this kind would undoubtedly be attended with some cost; but, as many beautiful British marbles are now worked in London, which appear to be the most costly part of the materials employed, these might be had at as little comparative expence as in Italy.

* Our readers will recollect Pope's tasteless fable in his poem of Windsor Forest.

"It is curious, that though this cheap and beautiful art has never been transplanted into England, it is about to take root in a more northern climate; and many Venetian Terraslayers have set out, upon invitation, to Russia."

Mr. Rose visited Abano 'for the use of the baths, and his account of this Italian *mudding*, (not watering-place),' is described with a lively pen.

"This village is about three miles from the Euganean Hills; and the houses, occupied by those who resort to the place, for the benefit of its muds and waters, are yet nearer, all situated in an extensive plain: from this rises a sort of a natural *tumulus* of a figure nearly circular, of about fifteen feet high, and, I should think, above one hundred in circumference. It appears to be of the same sort of composition as the neighbouring hills, perhaps the wreck of one, consisting of calcareous stone, *tufo*, and other materials, indicative of a volcanic origin.

"From this mount burst two or three copious streams of hot water, which are capable of boiling an egg hard, at their source. A part of these serves to fill the baths, and pits for heating the muds; a part loses itself in cuts and wet ditches, amidst the meadows; and a part turns the wheel of a mill, which whirls amidst volumes of smoke.

"The meadows, which are of a surprizing richness, extend about two miles without interruption, when they are broken by an insulated hill, entirely covered with trees, brushwood, and vines: from the foot of this issue smoking streams, and a little farther is another single hill, from whose roots issue hot mineral waters. The structure of the hills, and the character and position of their strata, shew evidently that they were once in the Euganean chain.

"There are other springs of the same nature, and having all of them more or less of medicinal virtue, which procured this place the ancient name of Aponon, apparently derived (as has been conjectured) from α , privative, and $\piονος$, pain.

"It is not, however, upon its geological wonders, that the modern notoriety of Abano principally rests. It is celebrated for its muds, which are taken out of its hot basins, and applied either generally or partially, as the case of the patient may demand. These are thrown by, after having been used, and, at the conclusion of the season, returned to the hot fountains, where they are left till the ensuing spring, that they may impregnate themselves anew with the mineral virtues which these are supposed to contain. The most obvious of these, to an ignorant man, are salt and sulphur. The muds are, on being taken out, intensely hot, and must be kneaded and stirred some time before they can be borne: when applied,

an operation which very much resembles the taking a stucco cast, they retain their heat without much sensible diminution for three quarters of an hour, having the effect of a slight *rubefacient* on the affected part, and producing a profuse perspiration from the whole body, a disposition which continues more particularly in the part to which they have been applied, when unchecked by cold. Hence heat is considered as so essentially seconding their operations, that this watering-place, or rather mudding-place, is usually nearly deserted by the end of August, though there are some who continue to wallow on through the whole of September.

"The baths, though sometimes considered as a remedy in themselves, are most generally held to be mere auxiliaries to the muds, and usually but serve as a prologue and interlude to the dirty performance which forms the subject of the preceding paragraph, they being supposed to open the pores, and dispose the skin to greater susceptibility.

"There is, no doubt, great fanaticism in this part of Italy, respecting the virtues of those muds, which are here considered as applicable to many cases, in which it would be ridiculous to suppose they could be efficacious. On the other hand, there seems to be as much perverse incredulity amongst medical men on the other side of the Alps, always excepting our own, who, without rejecting the possibility of the thing, seem (at least those I have known) very discreetly to suspend their belief.

"I can, for myself, see nothing improbable in the effects which the Muds are supposed in many cases to produce; but to pursue a safer mode of reasoning, I have seen myself cases which might alone fairly establish the reputation of *Abano*. It is true, however, that the muds act very uncertainly; but this is probably the case with every medicament: and, I suppose, with the exception of bark and mercury, it may be said, that there is no such thing as a specific.

"Every one knows the advantage of keeping the spirits amused under every species of cure. Now there is scarcely even a newspaper to be had in the coffee-room, or a book to be procured short of Padua; but, perhaps, the pleasures of the place are more calculated for an Italian than for an Englishman. These ordinarily consist in coffee-house prose, or listening to some *improvisatore*, in dancing (that is, those who can) to the squeak and squall of a fiddle, tormented by some blind professor, in billiards by day, or in faro by night.

"But that which best insures amusement is the fund of good-humour and gaiety which the invalids here bring with

them, and which each throws cheerfully into the common stock. Both sexes, when they have finished their mud-matins and their masses, may be seen lounging in knots, if the heat will admit, under an avenue, which forms the charm of a melancholy garden; and here you have no lamentations from them over personal or local miseries, nor do you ever detect their ill-humour escaping by some secret vent. They fall naturally into society with each other, and no one ever seems to fear, as with us, another's springing an acquaintance upon him, which may blow him up in the eyes of his more fastidious or fashionable friends. All is ease, nature, and gaiety.

"This system of sociability is almost universal in Italy. I recollect passing two days in the family of a gentleman who occupied the principal house in a small town in Tuscany, where, to my great astonishment, I perceived, on returning from an evening walk, the ominous preparations of lights and card-tables. Having asked the meaning of this, I was told that it was my host's turn to hold an assembly, solemnized in rotation at the houses of all the *notables* of the place. At this all were present, from the *feudatario* to the apothecary.

"In some instances, indeed, even common shopkeepers are admitted (and were so formerly) to these country *conversazioni*. Yet, on returning to the city, all have the good sense to fall back into their proper ranks."

We have been amused with our author's account of the Italian lottery, and have no doubt but our readers will be so also.

"I was yesterday walking out with a considerable number of persons lodged here, when a lady, on hearing two women talking about the lottery, detached herself from the party and joined them. I give you the dialogue which followed:

"LADY. My good woman, I too amuse myself with the lottery. Last night I dreamt that a person, who is dead, appeared to me. What numbers does that signify?

"WOMAN. A dead man, ma'am, is *forty-five*, and a dead man resuscitated *fifty*. (I report from recollection.) So that you must play 45 and 50.

"LADY. Well! but he saluted me.

"WOMAN. What, with his hand? (imitating the motion of the fingers, indicative of a familiar salute in Italy.)

"LADY. Yes.

"WOMAN. That signifies five.

"LADY. Thank you, good woman, for your information; which I shall profit by.

"This dialogue requires a comment. The French and Italian lottery, which, I believe, are now alike, do not resemble ours. A quantity of tickets, inscribed with different numbers, associated at pleasure, are shook together in a box, and then are drawn and proclaimed aloud; an operation which usually takes place in some conspicuous part of the city. Those who gamble in the lottery, therefore, play upon certain numbers. Thus, I play upon 30, 40, 60, and inscribe these numbers on a ticket which I purchase previous to the drawing, and of which I receive a duplicate. If, therefore, these numbers come up in the same ticket, no matter whether or not in the same order, I have won a prize; but my gains are not only the sport of chance, but are regulated in some degree by previous conditions. Thus, I may play for an *ambo*, i. e. that two numbers, correspondent to those I have chosen, shall be found on the same ticket; or three, which is denominated a *terno*; or four, which is a *quaderno*. I should observe, that the numbers employed are limited to 90, and that if only one of my numbers comes up, as 30, I take nothing by my motion.

"The choice of figures on which to play naturally enough gives rise to a variety of superstitions; and there are books published which shew the relation of every occurrence, whether in vision or in every-day life, to numbers in the lottery. Thus, for example, I meet in my morning's walk a mangy dog, a man in a pea-green coat, with a cocked hat, or a woman with a rouged face under a white beaver one: I return home, and consult my books, and find that the mangy dog is 12, the pea-green man 16, and rouged face under a white hat, 30. But I should have said, that every odd circumstance whatever has a double signification. Thus, if I dream that my dog bites me, I recur to my books for an explanation of what this is significative; and here I find, perhaps, that my dog's biting me is prefigured an injury to be received from a friend, and that the same thing is connected by some mysterious link with No. 62. But, as the magic volume cannot of course supply a provision for every possible case, I must, if abandoned by my spells, find a resource in the powers of my own ingenuity. Let us put a case: I see a human figure on one of the highest pinnacles of the Alps. I seek an explanation in my conjuring-book, but in vain. How then am I to read the emblem? I see a man who has reached a pitch as high as human daring and address can carry him; what can this signify, but that I am to mount as high as is possible in the lottery-scale? The case is clear, and I play 90.

"The lottery-books seem, in some instances, to proceed on some principle of analogy, as in the instance of a salute with the fingers signifying 5; but, in-general, the relation between things and numbers appears to be a mere random association, or, perhaps, a fragment of the old cabalistic folly, that taught the universe was governed by numbers, which regulated every thing, from the annihilation of a plant to the blowing-up of a powder-mill."

We do not recollect to have met with more judicious REFLECTIONS on the poetry of Petrarch, than the following :

"But let us leave his passion, and look a little to the principles according to which we are often called upon to judge his poetry by what may be called the broad-cloth faculty of critics at home. These persons ask,—What is got by the perusal of his works? A question which reminds me of the objection said to have been made by a celebrated mathematician to Homer, *videlicet*, that he proved nothing. For my own part, I know of nothing immediately useful (in the vulgar sense of the word) which is to be carried away from any poem, which might not be much better taught in prose, not excepting even Grainger's Sugar-cane, and Phillips's Cyder-press. But I shall, perhaps, be told by another and more respectable class, and who have truer notions of poetry, that though its ends appear to be fulfilled, whilst we are engaged with Petrarch, we no sooner close the magic volume, than our recollections of it are effaced, and the fairy fabric is dissolved without the magician's suffering us to carry away such a vestige of it as might serve to justify the admiration we had experienced. There is undoubtedly a great deal of truth in this observation; yet is it equally applicable to another art, to which I have never heard it applied? Now, if we content ourselves with an immediate impression in the one case, I know not why we should not do so in the other. We hear a fine piece of music, which hurries us through a variety of delicious sensations, with a rapidity which does not allow us to analyse them; we have only time to listen and enjoy. It is undoubtedly very difficult to account in detail for the means through which we are pleased by his style of poetry; but, perhaps, what Shakspeare has said of a certain description of eloquence—

'Where every something being blent together,
Turns to a wild of nothing, save of joy.'

offers the best explanation of them.

"The cause of the evanescent nature of it, apparently arises from its merit consisting, not only in nice and mingling

shades of sentiment, but in the extreme delicacy of the diction and the prosody, which harmonize exquisitely with the passion and imagery which they clothe."

The variety of the epistolary style is, perhaps, the best adapted for books of travels. It suits well with the sudden transitions incident to the shifting of place, and the quick succession of different topics. From the poetry of Petrarch, we shall pass to the poor of Padua.

"At Padua and elsewhere, you are beset by beggars in coffee-houses, and hung upon in the market-place. Words are wanting to paint the poverty of this people in colours which could give you some idea of the reality. It is a spectre which breaks in upon you in the solitude of the fields; it crosses and blasts you amidst the crowds of gaiety and dissipation.

"I mentioned, in my preceding letter, having once found a poor child lying on the ground under the affliction of an ague fit; at a little distance was seated a small circle of young children, who were eating a mess of panada with a single wooden spoon, which circulated, as in the Romance of Vathek, round the little group. I conjured this ring of ragged fairies in such terms as I could, and give you the result of the questions and answers.

"Is that your brother lying under the sack?

"(The Eldest.) Yes, Sir.

"What is the matter with him?

"He has the fever, Sir.

"Why don't you put him in some dry place?

"We don't know where to find one, Sir.

"Why, where do you sleep?

"In an empty stable, Sir; and I will put him there.

"Where are your father and mother?

"Our mother is dead, and our father begs, or does such little chance-jobs as offer in the hotel.

"And what do you do?

"I get up the trees here, and pick vine-leaves for the waiters to stop the decanters with, and they give us our panada.*

"I suppose that the strongest abettors of the new opinions, which have acquired such deserved weight in England, would scarcely wish to close the hand of private charity, coming in

* Bread, boiled in broth, or in water, with an infusion of oil or butter. It is the ordinary food of children of all conditions in Italy.

succour of peculiar cases of distress ; yet, without some sort of eleemosynary public establishments, (and such are wanting in this country), private charity becomes helpless. I could do little more than mind the feast of these poor little wretches, of whom I afterwards ascertained, as I have already mentioned, that five out of seven were labouring under the same disease.

" Had my pecuniary means been adequate to my desire to diminish this mass of misery, how was the thing to be accomplished ? I do not believe I could have found a family that would have boarded these melancholy little mendicants, and am quite sure that no one would have had the patience to bear with the waywardness of sickly childhood, or rack their inventions to reconcile and familiarize it to a remedy, against which even the strongest constitutions revolt. In England the parish-workhouse, or some neighbouring hospital, would have offered a ready resource.

" There are hospitals indeed here, but these are so thinly scattered, (excepting those in the Roman state, which are both numerous and magnificent,) and are administered on such narrow principles, exclusive of particular diseases and particular ages, and always turning upon some miserable question of habitancy within very confined limits, that they are usually insufficient to the purposes I have mentioned."

The following observations may be useful to persons intending to travel in Italy.

" I spent a day and a half at Padua, and concerted measures with a Venetian gentleman, for making an expedition to Vicenza. As we had to transport servants and baggage, we were under the necessity of providing ourselves with carriages adequate to our camp-equipage, and went in search of a *vetturino*, or voiturier, who would supply us with such.

" There is always a swarm of these who ply in every town of Italy, and we soon found a man who promised every thing we desired. As we took earnest from him (according to the custom of the country) we did not examine his means of fulfilling the engagement he entered into, but learned early the next morning, by a mere accident, that he was a *vetturino senza vettura*. Wondering how our adventure was to end, but determined, at the worst, to confiscate the rogue's earnest-money, we waited with patience till the appointed hour, when we saw a barouchette, gig, and cart, draw up at the door, with postillions in the imperial livery. The *Vetturino* had found, it seems, some Vicentine post-boys, who had brought an Austrian colonel and his baggage to Padua, and engaged

them to transport us and our effects in the return-carriages to Vicenza.

" We set off perfectly careless as to the arrangement of the Vetturino, provided we were delivered at our destination with decent dispatch : but this seemed at first hopeless, for our post-boys proceeded in the thorough spirit of the English recruiting song of promise to military adventurers,

' To stop at every ale-house as ever we comes nigh,
Till we gets to the wars in North-Americky.'

But as ale-houses, or (to speak with more precision), wine-houses, are scattered somewhat more thickly on the road from Padua to Vicenza, than they can be supposed to be in the Atlantic ocean, our arrival at the latter city appeared to be problematical.

" At length, however, we made such vigorous remonstrances, that the post-boy who drove our carriage assured us, if we would allow him to stop at the *Zoco*, a little inn, about ten miles from Padua, we should not have to complain of further interruptions. We agreed very willingly to this compromise ; but after having made a long stay at the above-mentioned place, and again set out, the compact was violated by the other postillions, who denied afterwards having been parties to the convention.

" In short, we had not proceeded three miles further before we came to a dead halt. Out of all patience, we got out of the carriage, and having made our way to the kitchen, found that these considerate persons had bespoke a piece of raw meat, which was at that moment putting down to roast. Our surprize at their intention was a subject of much coarse merriment to all present ; but indignation now supplied us, in our turn, with such a flow of words, that our post-boys gave way under the volley, and remounted their horses.

" But though they allowed us to carry our point, they did not strike without pouring in a vigorous fire for the honor of their flag. In this they were backed by the whole kitchen-militia of the wine-house, and we set out amidst a hubbub of halloos, hoots, threats, and execrations.

" We consoled ourselves under this mortification, with the resolution of disinheriting our post-boys, but we managed matters ill ; for amidst the confusion, which necessarily results from a variety of money, some of which has materially changed its nominal value, and is every week undergoing variation, my friend, in discharging their legitimate claims, paid them six Venetian livres too much.

"They were gone before we discovered our mistake; but as we were somewhat angry, and as one does not think so lightly of small money in Italy as in England, the Venetians, and myself, the appropriate representative of vindictive justice, as blind and lame, though alas! not even-handed, set off in pursuit of the delinquents. We overtook them near the post-house, and as they were in the act of dividing the spoil, which, to my surprize, they restored without a debate.

"But the thing was speedily explained. By the posting regulations, postillions are forbid to convey travellers or luggage by return-horses and carriages, under heavy penalties, and these men therefore besought us that we would not occasion their ruin, by denouncing them at the post-house; yet had they insulted us in a most outrageous manner, only an hour before, though they knew that they lay under the lash of the law, and that one word from us would be sufficient to make it fall upon their backs."

Mr. Rose touches on every topic with grace and familiarity. We extract his observations on the Italian Kitchen.

"We may observe that the customs of the kitchen are amongst the most permanent of national habits. Thus I have been assured that the emigrants from Suffolk are to be distinguished from the other colonists of North America, by their pudding-eating propensities, which, I dare say, they inherited at first hand from their Anglo-saxon ancestors; and I suppose that even the squab-pye of Devonshire, were the pursuits of our antiquarian society rationally conducted, might be traced up to the heroic ages of the heptarchy.

"A learned and ingenious friend observes that Greek colonies, wherever they have been planted, have introduced the passion for cheese as a principal ingredient in cookery. The fact, as far as my observation extends, is true, though I never yet met with it in negus, as Nestor and Machaon drank it. But cheese seems to have spread from the Greeks to the Romans, is general throughout Italy, and, as I said before, is the great bond of union between her various kitchens.

"But, though these are, with this exception, distinguished by some particularity, they are all founded on liberal maximis, and while they allow the principle of preference, never admit that of exclusion; for every fowl that flies, and every fish that swims, is meat in Italy; whilst, on the contrary, some of the greatest delicacies which sea and air offer, are rejected by us.

"Amongst these I should class all small birds, which are here dignified by the appellation of birds *of the gentle beak*, such as thrushes, robin red-breasts, as contra-distinguished

from sparrows and others, which may be said to be of the *burgher beak*.

"One of the good things which we, under the influence of the strange levitical law we have imposed upon ourselves, cast away as unclean, is the cuttle-fish, justly esteemed one of the luxuries of the Italian table. This, when large, is cut into strips and fried; and when small, stewed in its own ink and oil, with the addition of some slight condiment.

"I will not deny that the first sight of this dish somewhat discouraged me; but I may say I eat the black broth with pleasure, without having bathed in the Adriatic: for I vanquished my prejudice the first day I arrived at Venice.

"Nor is this fish better in the Mediterranean than in the ocean, for I have eaten it in perfection in England, though I verily believe at the risque of losing my caste, and being looked upon as something monstrous and unchristened, by the fishermen who brought it me. The best proof, however, which could be given of the absence of those eating prejudices, which are so strong in England, is, perhaps, the general diffusion of potatoes. This root was, two years ago, a thing of rare occurrence in this country, and is now to be seen in profusion in every market-place in Italy.

"But in fact, the disposition of the Italians to turn all things to account, is yet more strongly marked with respect to the vegetable than to the animal kingdom; for the earth scarcely yields a herb which he does not press into his salad. In Tuscany a species of horse-chesnut is made into bread, and forms the main provision of the mountain population: which recurs to still worse diet in years of scarcity; and the stranger, who wanders into the house of one of these highlanders, may then see oak and chesnut-leaves boiled for the use of the family."

The following criticism on the architecture of Palladio may excite some difference of opinion, but for ourselves we think it just.

"There are, undoubtedly, many obvious deformities in his architecture; defects which, I should think, might offend even the eyes of those who acknowledge the legitimacy of the school. Amongst these I should place his high and hideous roofs, that often look like hutches for his statues, which appear to have

'Stept to their pedestals to take the air,' in the full confidence of having a sufficient retreat behind them. This defect may be observed in many of his buildings, and particularly in the *Salone* of Vicenza; though perhaps

this should hardly be cited in evidence against him, as it was a *rifacciamento*, and its faults may be the blunders of its founder.

" I might add various abuses of decoration, as exemplified in ornaments, which have neither use, meaning, nor beauty, of which I shall, however, only mention one, which strikes me as the most clumsy ever contrived; I mean those heavy architraves with which he has thought it necessary to crown all his windows; an ornament which offends, from the perverse variety which he observes in them. I never see two windows with these ugly alternations, as those, for instance, of his disciple at Whitehall, but it forces upon me the image of a person under an attack of paralysis, with one eye-brow quiescent in its accustomed curve, and the other screwed up into a triangle.

" In fine, I allow that Palladio has his faults; and it is certainly true, that blots in architecture, painting, or sculpture, as weighed against beauties, tell more in the scale than in that of the more intellectual arts.

" Now, judged by the general result of his works, Palladio must surely be ranked high, even by those who are disgusted by his defects. His imagination is boundless, or is only to be equalled by his ingenuity in disposing of the stores with which his fancy has furnished him. He has, indeed, more of the magician than the builder, and I am persuaded, that had he lived in the days of the Fata Morgana, she would have employed him as chief architect, both for her palaces and casinos. Indeed, the open work and frost work, in which he sometimes deals, seem admirably fitted for her enchanted garden.

" This school appears to me to be much better calculated for gay and crowded cities than that which forms the admiration of certain select circles at home, and I cannot partake in the contempt which I have heard expressed at the character of what has been adopted in our new streets, though I do not hold it the best sample of the sort, and, considering the beginnings I have seen, as an imitation of *Piranesi*, think a much better model might have been found in *Palladio*.

" My preference of this species for the decoration of a capital, rests upon many grounds, though I do not know whether you will consider these as more stable than the foundation has been of some of the edifices which have furnished me with my illustration. My first and main reason is, that the Grecian school, allowing it, as I freely do, to be superior, is to be considered as the blank verse of architecture, and not within the reach of the many. The Italian is infinitely more popular. Then surely, when you are catering for the people at large,

some deference is to be shown for their taste and predilections.

"The superiority of the Italian school to the other, seems also to me to be manifest in what respects use and comfort, for except they may serve for churches or town-halls, to what purpose can the buildings of the Grecian be rationally applied?"

"Another powerful objection, in my eyes, to the Grecian architecture is, that, to be seen to advantage, it requires a certain 'pride of place'; while the Italian accommodates itself to its situation, and often (as may be seen in some Palladian buildings here) changes and modifies its proportions according to the distance from which they are to be viewed."

Our readers will be pleased with the following account of an *Improvvisor*:-

"Having been advised to drink certain mineral waters, as the best preservative against the return of my fever, and these waters requiring, as my adviser well or ill informed me, some precautions at this season of the year, I had determined to confine myself to the house of an evening: but the arrival of a celebrated *improvvisor* tempted me to break through the embargo. This man gave an academy, as it is termed here, in one of the halls of the famous olympic theatre. I give you the process of this scene of conjuration.

"Two understrappers appeared upon the stage, with materials for writing and a large glass vase: one of these took down, on separate scraps of paper, different subjects, which were proposed by such of the audience as chose to suggest them. The other, having duly sealed them, threw them into the above-mentioned vase, which he held up and shook before the spectators: he then presented it amongst them for selection, and different subjects were drawn; but all rejected, till they came to *Alfieri alla tomba di Shakespeare*, an argument which was accepted by universal acclamation.

"The two assistants now retired, and the principal appeared in their place. He was young and good-looking, and, being of opinion that a neckcloth took from his beauty, wore his throat bare; but, in other respects, had nothing singular in his dress, which was precisely that of an Englishman. He received the paper on entering, and immediately threw himself on a chair; from whence, after having made a few Pythian contortions, but all apparently with a view to effect, he poured out a volley of verse, without the slightest pause or hesitation; but this was only a preface to a mightier effort.

"He retired, and the two assistants re-appeared ; subjects were proposed for a tragedy, the vase shaken as before, and the papers, containing the arguments, drawn.

"Amongst the first titles fished out was that of *Ines de Castro*, which, as no objection was taken to it, was adopted, and communicated to the *improrisatore*. He advanced and said, that, as he was unacquainted with the story, he desired to be instructed in the leading facts. These were communicated to him, succinctly enough, by the suggester of the theme, and he forthwith proceeded to form his *dramatis personæ*, in the manner of one who thinks aloud. These were few, after the example of Alfieri. As soon as this matter was arranged, he began, and continued to declaim his piece, without even a momentary interruption, though the time of recitation, unbroke by any repose between the acts, occupied the space of three hours."

But this instance of peculiar Italian talent is less wonderful than the following account of a Bolognese student.

"Signor Mezzofanti, of Bologna, who, when I saw him, though he was only thirty-six years old, read twenty, and conversed in eighteen languages. This is the least marvellous part of the story ; he spoke all these fluently, and those, of which I could judge, with the most extraordinary precision. I had the pleasure of dining in his company formerly, in the house of a Bolognese lady, at whose table a German officer declared that he could not have distinguished him from a German. He passed the whole of the next day with G—— and myself, and G—— told me he should have taken him for an Englishman, who had been some time out of England. A Smyrniote servant, who was with me, bore equal testimony to his skill in other languages, and declared that he might pass for a Greek, or a Turk, throughout the dominions of the Grand Seignior. But what most surprized me was his accuracy ; for, during our long and repeated conversations in English, he never once misapplied *the sign* of a tense, that fearful stumbling-block to Scotch and Irish, in whose writings there is always to be found some abuse of these indefinable niceties.

"The marvel was, if possible, rendered more marvellous by this gentleman's accomplishments and informations, things rare in linguists, who generally mistake the means for the end. It ought also to be stated, that his various acquisitions had been all made in Bologna, from which, when I saw him, he had never wandered above thirty miles."

But our author does not confine his observations merely to objects, taste, and society and manners. We extract his infor-

mation respecting the state of tythes in Italy, and meriting the particular attention of Englishmen.

"In the first place, the people are not accustomed to the examination of public documents, as with us; such being for the most part inaccessible but to public functionaries. In the next place, they are not less presumptuous on account of their ignorance, but answer your queries with a confidence, which imposes till repeated proofs of the absence of exactness destroy the imposition. A peculiar difficulty has been added to the general ones which attend such a research, in the Venetian state. The taxes upon landed property, under the aristocracy, were called by the name of tythes, or *decime*, and there was an office at the Rialto, entitled *La Magistratura della Decime*, for their administration. Hence, I am persuaded, arose many of the mistakes which I detected, though in my inquiries I had sought to guard against such, and particularly specified that I confined my question to *decime ecclesiastiche*.

"There was the less excuse for the blunders I allude to, since, though *decime* is the Italian word for tythe, the ecclesiastic tythe in the Venetian state is usually termed *quarantese*: though the payment made to the church, or its representative, is not limited to the fortieth part of the produce, as the name would import.

"As little is it to be supposed, that payment of a tenth is to be implied by *decima*, for there is no general rule respecting the *quantum* of these contributions throughout Italy. In some places it is a payment of one in forty, in others of one in ten, in others of one in eleven, of one in fifteen, and of one in twenty. This variety seems to have sprung out of local circumstances, at least in the first instance, and to have been afterwards confirmed by custom. What gives weight to this supposition is, that the proportion paid is usually highest in mountainous and unproductive tracts, where it seems to have been necessary to tax the proprietors hardest for the maintenance of a minister.

"Though the question of quantity is vague and various, the quality of articles subject to tythes, is determined on a more general principle. This is, I believe, almost every where payable solely on *omni genere frugum et animalium*, as it is expressed. But even these words are not to be construed according to their strict acceptation; for though grapes, as forming an article of necessity, are tytheable, other fruits, wherever grown, though articles of common consumption, are not included in the description; being considered as mere articles of luxury.

"Another important modification of this principle, is, I believe,

general in Italy: the tythe on grain is paid but on one harvest; where more than one, of whatever description, is reaped. This is never locally commuted, but always taken in kind, though the beasts are usually (perhaps always) redeemed by money.

"It is, I suppose, on the principle of the exemption of fruits, not productive of a certain profit, that we should call orchards, walled in of old, (in this part of Italy termed *broti*, and, I believe, in the Italian law-language, *terreni casali*,) though, perhaps, producing other tytheable things, do not contribute. Sometimes, also, particular lands are tythe-free, though they do not come under this description, the causes of such immunity, as in other countries, being forgot.

"The most important and general exemption; however, of which I am aware, is that of waste lands, which are for ever exempted from tythe, on being newly inclosed; unless they should be lands which, having been once cultivated, and having once paid, run waste, and are afterwards rendered anew productive; there being a general rule applicable in this case, where not contravened by local custom or rights; the maxim of *solite solvere solvant*.

"It is singular enough that England should be the only country in Europe where the principle of exempting waste lands newly inclosed, for a shorter or longer period, from tythe, has not been practicably adopted. The effect is visible; for it is the country in Europe where most waste land is to be found. Waste land, however, is not here, as you will have seen, exempted expressly *as waste*, which was the case in old France; but incidentally to the maxim of admitting no new claims on the part of the church, the rights of which are determined by prescription."

The following account of a visit to the island of Torzelo gives a painful and faithful picture of the incumbent desolation of the once flourishing state of Venice.

"I was once favoured by one of those delicious days of sunshine, common even in a Lombard winter, which in some degree mitigated the melancholy of the prospect, and enabled me to saunter and view, without inconvenience, all the circumstances of the scene. Amidst the vestiges of departed grandeur were left some poor and scattered houses, and a church, the *rifacciamento* of which dates, I believe, from the eleventh century. A broken column marked the centre of what had been the piazza, and from which had once waved the standard of St. Mark. Amidst these remains glided a few human beings, the miserable tenants of the place. There was nothing striking in the architecture, nothing picturesque in the landscape, but the

whole made an impression upon me which no other ruins ever produced. Whilst I was musing upon the prospect before me, a clock from a half-ruined tower tolled twenty.* Time only had suffered no change, together with the monuments he had overthrown. He spoke an antiquated language, hardly intelligible to the generation of the day.

"The church here, though not very striking in point of architecture, had in itself some interesting features. Its stone shutters, carrying one's ideas back to days of violence, are, as far as my observation goes, a singular remnant of such an age; and some very curious Mosaic, in the inside, may vie in beauty and antiquity with those of St. Mark.

"To return, however, to the general impression made upon me by this isle of ruins, other and less fantastical reflections succeeded to those which first presented themselves. Gazing upon the scene before me, I could not but muse upon the way in which the Venetian empire had been lost and won. When this scene was gay with villas and vine-yards, Venice contented herself with insular dominion, and this may be considered as the most flourishing and triumphant era of her state. She sought and obtained continental greatness, and thus sloped the way to her destruction. Her ruin was not, indeed, the immediate consequence of this change of policy, but it was evidently the first step towards it; nor, in her after-struggles for dominion or existence, was she ever capable of the gigantic effort she made under the Doge Michael, for the conquest of Constantinople. For when we consider the extent of this, the number and burthen of the vessels which composed her armament, we may, perhaps, affirm, that the history of the world does not present a more striking picture of the unassisted powers of commerce."

Among the pleasing little freaks of imagination in which our accomplished author often indulges, we were much amused with the following :

"As I was passing, this morning, near my kitchen, which, according to the rational practice of Italy, is on the floor which you inhabit, I heard my cook making great lamentations over the loss of a bucket, which had got loose from its rope, at the bottom of the well. I suggested the obvious expedient of lowering somebody down in quest of it; but was assured, that even a boy had been already employed upon this service without effect. Upon my expressing some surprize,

* The Italians generally count time by the twenty-four hours. The same usage prevails in Sicily.—See *Galt's Voyages and Travels*.

that more confidence was placed in the exertions of a child than a man, I was answered, *Ma Signor, ghe vol un busiaro.* That a liar was thought most calculated for this purpose somewhat surprised me; but it explained the preference given to a child, on a supposition that lying is more peculiarly the vice of infancy, though heaven knows it is that of all ages.

" This anecdote seems to open some new sources of superstitions: these, as I have already observed, are, in general, the same all over Europe, and are, therefore, evidently derived from common origins. One is evidently our common religion. Thus the fear, which is entertained here and elsewhere, of beginning a journey, or any other operation, on a Friday, and the superstitious awe which Friday brings with it to a part of the inhabitants of Scotland, may be attributed to the most solemn event which marks our creed, and which would seem to have given a short triumph upon that day to the powers of darkness. The ill omen of laying the knife and fork *across* seems to be of the same parentage; and the fear of sitting down, thirteen, to table; and the destiny supposed to attach to the first that rises, evidently comes from the last supper and the end of Judas Iscariot. It is remarkable, that in the famous painting of this, by *Leonardo da Vinci*, and known all over the world through the print of *Morghen*, (which, by the way, bears little resemblance to the original,) Judas is represented as overturning the salt. Did this superstition originate during the sacrificial ceremonies of Pagan worship?

" But religion, of whatever description, is not the only hotbed of these follies; which owe their birth even to so unsubstantial a thing as a metaphor. Thus the idea that a present of a knife *cuts love*, is as strong in Italy as in England; and the penalty is redeemed in the same manner, by converting a gift into a sale. Does the particular superstition I am recording arise out of an epigram? At least, the idea of sending a liar to the supposed abode of truth, seems to savour of this supposition."

There is something very lively and picturesque in the following description of a fire in Venice.

" The repose of Venice, a few nights ago, was fearfully disturbed. At about one in the morning, cannon were heard, the drums beat the generale, and the troops assembled from all parts. The first fear was that of a revolution; but this was soon changed for another, somewhat less alarming. The cry of *fogo!* was soon heard in all directions, and a pyramid of flame, which burst out at no great distance, confirmed the truth.

" The sort of square in which my house was situated, was

soon filled with people, but again abandoned ; so that the stage at intervals remained clear. And that there might not be wanting some strange resemblance to an Italian drama, three men of a low description, who were apparently ignorant of the alarm, suddenly appeared, tuned their guitars, and began to serenade. Their ill-timed music was paid in a coin which they little expected : a party of soldiers issued from the governor's house, opposite to that which I inhabit, surrounded the unfortunate musicians, and drove them away to assist at the extinction of the fire. They, as you will easily conceive, had recourse, but in vain, to complaints and remonstrances. "*Malatetti, niente capir,*" was the only answer ; the intended force of which words was inculcated by a few pricks of the bayonet. I should be ashamed to mention the momentary effect which this strange interlude produced upon me, if it was not notorious that the mind is sometimes most sensible of the ludicrous, when under the influence of awful impressions ; a circumstance which, perhaps, explains the possibility of our deriving pleasure from a mixture of the horrible and the ridiculous in works of fiction ; though this, in common theory, would appear a conjunction monstrous and disgusting."

We shall now give a specimen of our author's general reflections on the character of the people.

" Though some faint traces yet exist of the old Venetian character, it should be observed, that these are, generally speaking, nearly worn out. The *most* remarkable, as contrasted with the rest of Italy, certainly *is* so. The probity of Pantaloons was proverbial, and the honour and punctuality of a Venetian merchant were, I believe, recognized throughout the various provinces of Italy. That this is not now the case, I attribute to the Austrians ; but you will, perhaps, be inclined to treat my opinions, on this point, like those of the old fellow-commoner of Cambridge, who ascribed every evil in life, even that of the dogs' befouling his staircase, ' to those damned presbyterians.'

" But I am inclined to be more liberal ; and, instead of merely ascribing the change of the mercantile character in Venice to the Austrians, as such, am almost inclined to believe, that public honesty is scarcely compatible with their law. What this is, may be guessed from the constitution of their tribunals, as well as the code itself, which they administer. A tribunal here is composed of different poor judges. This bodes ill :—but, at least, numbers promise security against corruption.—Not at all.—In each tribunal one judge is charged with the particular examination of a cause. This

man, termed a relater, examines the papers and affidavits, and by his opinions his brothers are necessarily guided; for men will not, it may be guessed, go out of their way in search of labours and responsibility. Bribe the *relatore* then, and your business is done.

"But this is only one faulty stone in the structure. Alas, the whole fabric is rotten, the whole code, civil and criminal; which, in various ways, serves as a cloak to villany of every various description. An English merchant had a debt of eight hundred pounds due to him from a person of respectability, I mean of respectability in the mercantile world of Venice, and came here with a view of recovering it. The matter came before the chamber of commerce, and the thing was so clear, that, after sundry dirty fetches, the defendant was obliged to pay the money into court. Still the plaintiff was no farther advanced, and the said money was not to be recovered from the gripe of justice. Month after month passed away; and at last a person, who interested himself officially for the creditor, declared his intention of applying, on his behalf, to the British ambassador at Vienna, and bringing the matter, through him, under the cognizance of the emperor. The answer of the tribunal was, 'If you do, your appeal can be of no avail; certain forms are allowed by our law, and these cannot be superseded by the emperor himself; but let the prosecutor wait till Christmas, and he will have his money.' To all remonstrances it was answered, 'Wait till Christmas—I cannot tell you more—but wait till Christmas, and the eight hundred pounds will be forthcoming.' Christmas came, and the money *was* paid, nearly an equal sum having been consumed in the litigation. The friend of the poor English merchant now learnt the secret cause of the delays which had been thrown in the way of his client. Christmas is the period when the principal of money, put out at interest, can be called in; and this equitable court, it seems, gambled at usury with the money of its suitors.

"An English gentleman, conversant with this place, talking once with me about the mercantile classes of Venice, assured me that he did not speak paradoxically when he gave by much the highest rank, in the scale of honesty, to the Jews, the second to the Venetians, and the lowest of all to the Germans who are settled here, and who are amongst the principal money-agents of the city.

"But if mercantile honour does not stand high amongst any class at Venice, it must be confessed that it is at a low ebb all over the peninsula; and I do not hesitate to say that, measuring such men by our English standard, I never met

with an honest banker in Italy. This is a strong assertion ; but I will state on what it is founded. They not only universally dabble in petty gains, which a London merchant would be ashamed of, but put upon you bold and downright frauds. Thus, Friday is the day on which the rate of exchange is settled ; I go the Wednesday following to my banker and draw upon him for a hundred pounds, and he gives me in the coin of the country five pounds less than I ought to receive. I count my money, and tell him, that, according to the last declared state of the exchange, I ought to have more ; but he replies, that he will not cash my bills upon other terms. I am told that the law affords a remedy in this case ; but how am I to obtain it ? I am a bird of passage, perched for a little space, and months must roll away, in a paper-war of replies and rejoinders, before I can bring my artillery to bear : for there is no *mesne* process here, excepting that of the *bastinado*.

" But the tricks of mercantile men are not always confined to such petty frauds, and I might select some proofs of my position both from 'continent and isle ;' I will take the most flagrant I am acquainted with. The scene lies in Sicily. An English merchant there, after a long legal warfare with some merchants of the island, brought his foes to an agreement, which was signed in form. Some time afterwards, these men, repenting them of their act, went to the Englishman, and desired to see the paper again. He, sillily enough, put it into the hands of their spokesman, who instantly tore it to bits. I should not dwell on an individual act of baseness, had it received the chastisement which it merited from society ; but I never heard that this piece of villany brought with it any ill consequences to its perpetrator.

" As riches are every thing in Italy, it being premised that most mercantile men here are what we should call rogues, it may be observed that their roguery is usually in proportion to their rank. The banking knight is naught ; but the banking duke is a knave profest.

" In assigning, however, the highest rank in roguery to the greatest and richest amongst the commercial men, I am far from meaning to overlook the claims of subordinate dabblers in money or things vendible. A shopkeeper who has only one price, is a thing rare in Italy ; and I do not exaggerate, when I say that an Englishman, on his first visit, usually pays double what would be asked of one experienced in the prices of the place."

The following account of the ancient Venetian nobility, whose representatives we occasionally see in the plays of

"Othello" and "Venice Preserved," is curious, and even, we would almost say, affecting.

"I gave you, in a former letter from Vicenza, some Italian stanzas, in which Gritti, the Venetian poet, has sketched his own portrait; I am now tempted to give you another unpublished draught by the same painter, in which he, in a few lines, threw off that of the indigent Venetian noble. I have seen this, as well as the former stanzas given by me, better combed and curled; but I prefer them in their dishevelled state, which bears with it evidence of their having been rhapsodies of the moment.

Sono un povero ladro aristocratico
Errante per la Veneta palude,
Che i denti per il mio duro panatico
Aguzzo in su la cote e in su l' incende;
Mi slombo in piedi, e a seder' mi snatico,
Ballottando or la fame, or la virtude:
Prego, piango, minaccio, insisti, adulò,
Ed ho me stresso, e la mia patria in culo." *

"Some annotations are necessary to make this stanza intelligible. I should observe that, in his '*Mi slombo in piedi*,' Gritti appears to allude to the multitude of bows made by the pursuers of patronage, under the porticoes of the Procuratie, the spot frequented by the members of the *maggior consiglio*, previous to its assembling; and in the '*a seder' mi snatico*,' to a wooden chair in which the Venetian nobles sate, whilst balloting; a mode of voting by which all the patronage of the republic was distributed! It is scarcely necessary to observe, that a large part of these petty princes existed by this: but a more detailed account of the Venetian aristocracy may be, in some respects, new even to you.

"The nobles of Venice, though all equal in the eye of the law, were fancifully divided into three classes; the first distinguished as that of the *sangue blò* or *sangue colombìn*, i. e. blue blood or pigeon's blood; the second, as the division of the *morèl de mezo*, or the middle piece, and the poorest of all as *Bernaboti*, or Barnabites; from their inhabiting small and cheap houses in the parish of St. Barnabas.

"It will be easily conceived that the poor nobility must

" * I'm a poor peer of Venice, loose among her
Marshes! With standing bows I've double grown,
And in my trade of place and pension-monger,
Sate till I've ground my buttocks to the bone;
Ballotting now for MERIT, now for HUNGER:
Breaking, myself, my teeth, upon a stoue,
I crave, cringe, storm, and strive, thro' life's short farce,
And vote friends, self and country all—."

have been numerous in a state which considered all the legitimate sons of a patrician as noble; where commerce no longer offered a resource, and the only profession left was that of the law. This class, therefore, subsisting upon the employments of the republic, civil or military, at home and abroad, was necessarily ruined by the revolution. But the cause of the almost general havoc which involved the Venetian aristocracy is not so immediately visible; the less so, as the laws of the *fede-commesso*, which corresponds with our *entail*, were sufficiently rigorous in old Venice.

"I shall try, according to the information I have received, to explain how this was accomplished. The first and foremost cause was the excessive indolence and profusion of the last generations of the nobility, who appear to have resembled the ancestor of Sir Roger de Coverley; who, he tells us, 'would sign a deed for a mortgage, covering one half his estate, with his glove on:' with this difference, however, that the Venetian patrician could only mortgage his estate during his own natural life; a circumstance which, it appears at first sight, should have been the protection of the ancient houses of Venice. The protection was, however, in most instances of no avail.

"In almost all countries the laws of honour often contravene the laws of the land, often mischievously; but they sometimes come in aid of sound morality. Such was their effect here. The law of the *fede-commesso* allowed a son to charge himself with the debts of a father, without prejudice to his successors; but it being considered as a point of honour to take up this burden, the son's son succeeded to it, and the debts of one generation were perpetuated through diverse succeeding ones.

"Things were in this state when the old government was overthrown, and the law of *fede-commesso* abolished here, as well as all over the countries revolutionized by France. The consequence was, the immediate seizure of property so encumbered. This was inevitable; and the creditor of the family of Cornèr, or any other Venetian house, seized upon his own.

"Thus one of the indirect consequences of the revolution was the destruction of an immense number of the Venetian families of the *sangue blò* and *morel de mezo*. It was, however, more immediately destructive to those denominated the Barnabites, who were at once cut off from all the lucrative offices of the state. Nor was this all: the daughters of the indigent nobility had all of them pension which they brought in dowry to their husbands; but place and pensions, though bestowed for life, were annihilated, and, in the place of these, a miser-

able stipend of two Venetian livres a-day (not quite ten-pence English) was bestowed on those who condescended to accept of it, by the mushroom municipality which flourished for its day out of the ruins of the aristocracy. Poor as this pittance was, even in this country, where necessaries bear a price out of all proportion to luxuries, numbers *did* accept it, under the idea that it would be increased under happier circumstances : but the French, it will be easily believed, did not augment it, and (what could scarcely be believed but by those versed in the proceedings of the cabinet of Vienna) the Austrian government clipt this miserable mite, and clogged it with conditions, which neither the revolutionary municipality nor the French were illiberal enough to impose.

"The municipality gave *their* compensation, and, the whole of the *terra ferma* being in possession of the enemy, perhaps they could give no more—the municipality gave it as unrestricted as the pensions it was to replace : the French made no alteration in the system ; but the Austrians have not only limited it to persons not having two hundred ducats a-year, (twenty-five pounds sterling,) but have insisted upon its being spent in their own dominions. Of the rigour with which this condition is exacted, take the following example : —A lady, ignorant of the regulations which had been introduced, was absent two years in the south of France ; she returned, and claimed the arrears of her pension, without having specified where she had been. The arrears were paid after the usual difficulties, but her absence having been ascertained, she was ordered to disgorge her prey, under the threat of being excluded from all further provision.

"I have said, after the usual difficulties : I will now illustrate these. Another lady claimed *seven months* arrears of pension, due during a residence in Lombardy and the Venetian state. Now this was a claim verifiable by a single instrument, her passport, which ascertained the day of her arrival in every town, by the signature of accredited officers of the Austrian police. Notwithstanding this, she was *seven months* more before she could obtain her demand. These were spent in the presentation of petitions, always by order, always on stamped paper, and in the almost daily beat of half the official stairs of Venice, either in person or proxy.

"But I willingly turn away my eyes from a picture, every detail of which is painful, and having described the fortunes of the Venetian nobility, shall give some account of their honours.

"The patricians, as I said before, all equal in the eye of the law, had no titles as such, excepting that of *your Excel-*

lency ; though some bore them, as *Counts, &c.* of *terra ferma*, before being enrolled in the nobility of Venice ; and some had titles assigned them as compensations for, or rather as memorials of, fallen greatness. Thus the *Querini*, formerly lords of *Crema*, had the distinction continued to them, after *Crema* was absorbed in the Venetian state.

"These families, however, usually let their titles sleep, considering the quality of an untitled Venetian patrician as superior to any other distinction. Nor does this seem to have been an odd refinement, for the old republic sold titles for a pittance to whoever could pay for them, though such a person might not even have had the education of a gentleman. It was natural, therefore, that a Lord of *Crema* should fear being confounded with this countly *canaglia*, and sink his having any thing in common with such a crew.

"The great political revolution that has taken place, destroying the splendour of the *libro d'oro*, has induced some to produce their *terra ferma* titles ; but the majority content themselves with the style of *Cavaliere*, which does not necessarily denote actual knighthood ; and is often used almost as liberally in Italy, as the denomination of Squire now is in England. A striking proof, indeed, of good sense and dignity was given by the great body of the Venetian nobility, on being invited by Austria to claim nobility and title from her, on the verification of their rights ; the great body of them merely desiring a recognition of their rank, without availing themselves of the offer held out to them. A few, indeed, have pursued a different line of conduct, and received patents of princes," &c.

The following little notice of the political dislocation of Italy is worthy of attention. We have no patience with our foolish countrymen, who complain of all that is complainable of in Italy, as if the country formed one nation. If Italy were so, France and Austria might look to themselves.

"To pursue the subject of my last letter : I have been sometimes amused by the facility with which people at home unite the Italian provinces under one government. They seem to consider them as a parcel of walnut-shells thrown into a washing-glass, after dinner, which must come together through the force of mutual attraction. They have not, however, yet begun to act, or be acted upon, by this reciprocal spirit of coalition ; nor did I ever see any thing indicative of such a principle, if I except a few loose wishes from a few young men who called themselves *Unitarians*, and (if I recollect rightly) confined their efforts to wearing a blue coat and white waistcoat, as the symbol of their fraternity. In

truth, cognate provinces, as long as they are upon a footing of equality, can never be effectively consolidated. They may indeed unite *federatively*, but to do this they must first become republics, for we have not yet heard of *federative* monarchies, as the word is rightly understood: a circumstance which seems to afford an argument against the vulgar position, that republics are worse neighbours than despotic states.

"There is, indeed, only one way in which cognate provinces may coalesce into the strictest union, a principle that has been illustrated in France and Great Britain; that is, by one of these possessing such a superior degree of wealth and strength as could bribe or force the others into union. It was on this ground I said, that the magic head destined to give the signal for building a brazen wall about Italy had spoken twice: the first time was when the fabric of Buonaparte's power fell to pieces.

"Had Eugene Beauharnois then been guilty of one of those splendid crimes, which are to be abhorred or justified not only by the motive which dictates them, but by the success which attends them; had he raised his standard, and Lombardy risen at his back, all Italy might perhaps have been gathered beneath it. A second opportunity was offered when Murat marched his legions north: this was an ill-conceived enterprize: still fortune presented herself for a moment, but this adventurer let her slip through his arms. Had he, instead of losing time in attempting to possess himself of the batteries on the Pô, a paltry precaution when we consider that his enterprise necessarily involved success or ruin, and that retreat was impossible—had he, instead of this, given his enemies the slip, and marched into Piedmont, he would have found there the remnants of a discontented soldiery, trained to conquest, and who would possibly have lined his army with such strength as might have enabled Italy to make a desperate effort for independence. He did not; and the last stake was lost."

We extract an account of Venetian festivals and customs, which will divert our readers.

"To one who hunts such game as I pursue, matter is never wanting. This small chace may be compared to bird-nesting, in a track, where there are nests in every bush. There is no scarcity of eggs—the difficulty lies in stringing them. Under the impression of this, I am tempted to interrupt the order of time, (rather than break the thread of my argument,) and to pursue the subject of my last letter according to old recollections, though I shall greatly anticipate events.

"The carnival, though it is gayer or duller according to the genius of the nations which celebrate it, is, in its general character, nearly the same all over the peninsula. The beginning is like any other season; towards the middle you begin to meet masques and mummers in sunshine; in the last fifteen days the plot thickens; and during *the three last* all is hurley-burley. But to paint these, which may be almost considered as a separate festival, I must avail myself of the words of Messrs. William and Thomas Whistlecraft, in whose "prospectus and specimen of an intended national work," I find the description ready made to my hand, observing, that besides the ordinary *dramatis personæ*,

"Beggars and vagabonds, blind, lame, and sturdy,
Minstrels and singers, with their various airs,
The pipe, the tabor, and the hurdy-gurdy,
Jugglers and mountebanks, with apes and bears,
Continue, from the first day to the third day,
An uproar like ten thousand Smithfield fairs."

The shops are shut, all business is at a stand, and the drunken cries heard at night, afford a clear proof of the pleasures to which these days of leisure are dedicated.

"These holidays may surely be reckoned amongst the secondary causes which contribute to the indolence of the Italian, since they reconcile this to his conscience as being of religious institution. Now there is, perhaps, no offence which is so unproportionably punished by conscience as that of indolence. With the wicked man, it is an intermittent disease; with the idle man, it is a chronic one.

"On the first stroke of Lent, the sea is suddenly hushed, and not even a swell remains. This season of peace and penitence is, however, interrupted by a very odd popular festival which takes place (according to our University slang) on the day that *term divides*. The origin of it seems lost; for, though common, in the greater part of Italy, with some variety of circumstance, I never met with a person, from the professor to the barber, who could suggest any probable explanation. I shall describe it as it is performed at Venice.

"A small stage, with a covering, is erected in the most spacious *campo* of the parishes, which celebrate the festival. Upon this appears the effigy of an old woman, and seated before her are two men, one habited as a notary, the other as a sort of military jack-pudding with a drawn sabre. These two eat and drink, and dispute about her fate, one being apparently the advocate and the other the accuser of the dame. This insists upon her being burnt; and that declares she shall be saved. An appeal is at length made to the people, who

unanimously condemn her to the flames. At length, after some accessory games, such as running in sacks, swarming up a greased pole for fowls, flasks of wine, &c., lashed to the top, the figure is set fire to, amidst a volley of squibs, and burnt, much as Guy Fawkes is with us.

"There is little that is striking in what is termed *passion-week* by us, and the *holy-week* by the Italians, the week preceding this last being termed passion-week here, and I suppose in other Catholic countries. I except one circumstance. Till the period of the Ascension, all clocks and bells are silenced; and I recollect that this principle was carried so far in Malta, that even the governor, Sir Hildebrand Oakes's dinner-bell was dismounted by the Maltese part of his establishment; a liberty which he had the good sense and good-nature to suffer, contrary to the usual habits of military chiefs.

"It is impossible for me to go back in recollection to Malta, without observing the difference of colour which the Roman Catholic religion takes from the national character of the people amongst whom it is cultivated. I cannot look back on the procession of penitents in that island during the *settimana santa* without horror: whilst at Naples there is something of festive, even in the representation of those events, which seem least to admit such a character. I allude to the transparencies of the holy sepulchre exhibited in different churches, and which are visited by numerous parties, in the spirit of pleasure, rather than of pilgrimage.

"As usual, something of superstitious observance mingles in the meats of this, as well as of the other religious festivals. Our hot-cross-buns have an equivalent in cakes marked with a cross; and a lamb, or at least part of a roast lamb, is eat, (I suppose this is Jewish) as are also hard eggs, in every family of Italy, on Easter Sunday."

The following observations on the early discoveries of the Venetians could not be omitted in such a work as this:

"I went yesterday to the public library for the purpose, of looking at the famous *mappamondo* of Frà Mauro, a lion, which (strange to say!) I had never seen. When we consider the age in which this marvellous monument of science was constructed, and the circumstances which relate to it, it is impossible to refuse the Venetians a high place in the rank of discoverers. This singular work was composed, we know, about the middle of the fifteenth century; at a time when one should have thought that beyond what had been made out by the ancients, materials must have been absolutely wanting for such a work. Yet what anticipations of after-knowledge do we not find in it, and what a strange twilight must have

broken upon Venice; though the daylight which followed was destined to other nations, till then sitting in darkness!

" You are doubtless informed of the Frà Mauro's having maintained the possibility of circumnavigating Africa, but are perhaps not aware of the precise evidence (though Tiraboschi has written on the subject) which exists of his *mappamondo* having suggested to Don Henry of Portugal the very scheme which was, in the course of time, to arrest the progress of Venetian greatness.* This fact has been put beyond the reach of doubt, by the Abbot Zurla, who has collected the most minute circumstances attending these transactions. Zurla has also illustrated the voyage of the Zeni to the north, which, it appears to me, can no more be considered fabulous than the travels of Marco Polo, and has thrown new light upon the singular discoveries of Alvise di Cà da Mosto.

" There is much scattered evidence of other early unpublished discoveries; and the commerce which these people carried on in the interior of Africa, at an early period of their history, is almost placed beyond doubt.

" Conquest is always ruinous to knowledge. A part of the old Venetian documents were carried away to Milan, and those left are so crowded and disordered that it is impossible to refer to them; yet an imperfect list of a part of these confirms what I have just alluded to; I mean the interior African commerce of the Venetians, which appears to have been carried on by regular caravans.

" May not, perhaps, the distant voyages which these people seem to have made, and the intercourse they had with remote nations, which can only explain the composition of the *mappamondo*, serve also to explain the odd prophecies and half lights respecting another world that were afloat prior to the promises of the

' Nudo nocchier promettitor di regni ?'

CHIABRERA.

" Voltaire, with his usual flippancy, dismisses, you will recollect, the famous passage of Dante, as a mere accidental coincidence with truths afterwards established; and says the poet talked metaphorically, signifying the cardinal virtues by the four stars; and spoke of purgatory, and not of a real land. As to the first; he must have read Dante with very little attention who does not observe how often he speaks of things in a double sense; that is to say, in one real and figurative; and how accurate he was in applying his astronomical lights, ac-

* This is not quite correct.—See our *Introduction*.

cording to the scite in which he lays his scene. Nor was it extraordinary, that any one should at that period consider the islands in question as the actual purgatory. Voltaire, I believe, might have learned from the fathers, with whom he affects so intimate an acquaintance, that paradise occupied a certain defined situation; which is even assigned to it in the *mappamondo* of Frà Mauro. And why then should not one of the Western Islands have passed as well for the scite of purgatory, according to the notions at that time entertained? But a document, indeed, exists, which may throw more light on the probability of that for which I contend. Pietro d'Abano, a physician of celebrity, mentions in a letter, Marco Polo's having delineated for him what was apparently one of the four stars of Dante. Now this man was cotemporary with the poet, who, you know, made a long residence at Vénice.

"The '*sit apud te honos antiquitati et fabulis quoque*,' is an injunction which I feel in its full force; but I believe, that I am borne out by facts, as well as fable, in my reverence for the early Venetians, and in an opinion, which I entertain, that the early history of this country contains curious matter in the branch of arts and sciences, which is not generally known; and that other nations have, in truth, only restored much which they imagine themselves to have invented.

"In the '*Storia Cirile e Politica del Commercio de' Veneziani*,' the author, a Venetian gentleman named Carlo Antonio Marin, amidst a variety of proofs and presumptions of early Venetian discoveries, states that, in a visit to a convent, which he specifies, he saw a crucifixion painted on glass, with the date of 1177. He mentions also, that the friend who shewed it him, and who had analyzed the colours, maintained he had found oil in the composition. Dr. Johnson, no inaccurate examiner of evidence, in his life of *Frà Paolo Sarpi*, says: 'By him Acquapendente, the great anatomist, confesses that he was instructed how vision is performed, and there are proofs that he was not a stranger to the circulation of the blood.'

"Let me add that, together with the obligations we have to this extraordinary people in the improvement of humble but more useful science, such as the introduction of precision into matters of trade, &c. we have some, of a different character, which we probably little suspect. I allude to the first statute of *mortmain*, imitated from a Venetian law, enacting similar but stronger provisions, and known by the same denomination; *le leggi delle mani morte*.

"In an act founded on this principle, in 1767, I find the following preamble: 'Con moltiplaci leggi, e particolarmente con quelle del 1333, 1506, di questo maggior consiglio, e con

l'altra 1605 del senato, si procurò d'impedire che li stabili di questa città e di questo stato non vadano negli ecclesiastici e cause pie per via di legati, &c. &c. &c.'

"It is true that this principle of law was adopted early, and very universally; I believe (though you will know best,) with the exception of the Roman State, and I find it recognized in the statutes of Milan, when under the dominion of her dukes. Still no precise act upon the subject dates from so early a period as the first of Venice."

These extracts, which will probably suit the various tastes of many different readers, have extended to such a length, that we must now prepare to conclude this long article, referring our readers to the work itself for other equally interesting details.

"After having conducted you (to say nothing of devious excursions) half-way from one end of the great Alpine chain to the other, I shall not think it necessary to carry you back as regularly to my point of exit: since a great part of the way has been already trod, and what has *not*, resembles so much what *has*, that I shall let you off with a few observations on the two great cities which lie upon this route.

"Milan, the first of these, is large, and situated on a plain, and is what, I suppose, would be called a fine city: but it has nothing very striking, either within or without, to recommend it. Add, that it is hot in summer, foggy in the fall, and cold in the winter.

"I know not whether it is to be attributed to these its disadvantages; but what Alfieri says of the perfection of the plant man in Italy, certainly does not apply to Milan; for I think I never saw such a number of deformed and diminutive wretches in any city of Europe. This is not an observation peculiar to myself, for it has been remarked upon by Ugo Foscolo, in a note to his translation of Sterne's *Sentimental Journal*, and I recollect once counting nearly sixty in two days. This leads me to an observation which applies generally in the peninsula. I never saw deformity or infirmity excite a smile. Italy is, I believe, the only country in Europe which is free from this brutality. I have witnessed it in England and Germany, and France.

"Mishapen objects, though more common in Milan, are also to be found in the neighbouring towns, both on *plain and hill*, and spread into the confines of the Venetian State, where they are almost lost. I do not know to what one should ascribe this local tendency to deformity. Is it a defect of race, running through the descendants of the Gallic subalpine tribes, as one might almost be led to conjecture from its stop-

ping, or all but stopping, at those of the ancient Veneti? As a confirmation of such a guess, the absence of deformity forms the characteristic of some nations, and I never saw a mishapen person in Greece.

"As in the Milanese, man is often cut short of his fair personal proportions, so I should say that he was behind all the other Italians in mental qualifications, being ordinarily heavy, and slow of understanding."

IV.

Journey from Moscow to Constantinople, in the Years 1817 and 1818. By WILLIAM MACMICHAEL, M. D. F. R. S., one of Dr. Radcliffe's travelling Fellows from the University of Oxford.

Dr. Macmichael, and his companion, were the bearers of the dispatches which announced to the British ambassador at the Russian court the death of the Princess Charlotte. They arrived at Moscow on the eve of a grand fête, which the nobility were preparing to give to the imperial court, but which, as a token of respect to the memory of the princess, was postponed. The travellers, however, were compensated for this disappointment, by the interest which they took in examining the amazing rapidity with which the city was rising from its ashes. "To see," says Dr. Macmichael, the court of Russia established on the banks of the Moskwa, recalled the days of the Dukes of Muscovie, the Ivans, and the Fedors, before the policy of Peter the Great had forcibly transferred the seat of government from the centre of the empire to the shores of the Baltic.

"It is well known, that though Petersburgh has been for a century the residence of the emperor, and of the great officers attached to the court, yet the costly hotels, and immense establishments of the chief nobles of Russia, have been always found at Moscow,—of their magnificence an idea may be formed from the statement, that the number of domestics maintained in the house of the Countess Orloff amounts to eight hundred. The ruins of palaces, capable of containing so many inmates, are not easily repaired; besides, it is said, that if some of the proprietors have hitherto been restrained from building by the want of funds, others have been glad of a pretext to remain quietly on their estates in the country."

The doctor says, that many of the diamonds, rubies, and sapphires, which constitute the imperial regalia, and which are shown like the same kind of baubles in the Tower of Lon-

don, had the appearance of being fictitious. Every thing at Moscow is in extremes. The sumptuous palace is placed by the wooden hut; in the streets the rude Slavonian dialect is heard mingled with the accents of the most polished French. On one side you are jostled by a *petit-maitre*, and, on the other, come in rough contact with an unsophisticated bearded *Mougik*. The climate partakes of the same extremities: in summer it is too hot, in winter too cold. He observed a large building rising to completion, said to be the most spacious apartment in the world, whose roof is not supported by pillars. It was called the Exercir-Haus, and was intended for the parade of the troops when the weather would not allow them to exercise in the open air.

Before the sacred gate of the Kremlin stands the colossal group in bronze, intended to commemorate the deliverance of the city from the French. "On a lofty pedestal of granite, the figure of Pojarski is represented in a sitting posture, his right hand resting on a short sword, and, with a stern countenance, he seems to ruminate on the disasters of his country. The heroical Minin stands by his side; with his left hand he touches the sword of Pojarski, and with his right points upward, indicating that deliverance will come from Heaven." Meros is the name of the Russian artist by whom these statues was executed. But he has not been happy in the choice of his subject; for although the deliverance of the city from the partizans of the pretended Demetreus, by Pojarski and Minin, bear some resemblance to the more recent event, it is not easy to conceive with what propriety their statues appear on a monument commemorative of that event.

The Russians refuse to receive the honour to themselves of having sacrificed their ancient metropolis to their independence, but there is no doubt that they had a magnanimous part in that splendid event. Among others, a merchant fled with his portable property to Pittsburgh, and on the instance of the many, one of his servants obtained permission to enter his house, which was then occupied by a French officer, and was caught in the attempt to set it on fire. Whether the decisive step of burning the capital was the result of the determined patriotism of Count Rostopchin, taking upon himself the tremendous responsibility of so bold a measure, or only carried into execution by him, sanctioned from authority, it is allowed that the destruction of the city was the salvation of the empire; but he has been rewarded with permission to travel. In this, however, the Russian government has only shown an unworthy compliance with popular prejudice. It seems, that before the arrival of the French, a Hamburg

newspaper was stopped at the post-office, containing a prediction that Buonaparte would soon be in possession of the two Russian capitals. The son of the post-master showed it to one of his companions, by whom it was translated into the Russian language, and circulated. The indignation of Rostopchin was roused against the publisher of this ill-timed prophecy. He upbraided him with his treasonable conduct, struck him with his sword, and finally gave him up to the enraged mob, by whom he was torn in pieces. For a time this barbarous act of the zealous governor was overlooked; but the restitution of peace brought new sentiments, and, although the count was continued some time longer in office, it was at last found expedient to satisfy the public, that he should have permission to travel.

After dwelling at some length on different interesting particulars respecting the burning of Moscow, Dr. Macmichael gives a brief sketch of the history of the city, by which it appears that it had several times before suffered from fires, by accidents, and its enemies; but the late calamity was at once the greatest and the most glorious. It has, however, risen from its ashes, still retaining all its Asiatic characteristics, but improved in the wideness of the streets, and the elegance of the private edifices.

The doctor notices, that instead of those vague observations on the weather which we hear in conversation in more moderate climates, women and children, even the peasants, speak of the degrees of cold with a precision that, to the ear of a stranger, has all the effect of scientific affectation.

The Russians, he observes, are said to possess an excellent code of laws, which was promulgated in an assembly of the nobles, by Ivan Vassilievitch, and known by the name of the Joudebnik; and there are a few edicts of Peter the Great still held in reverence: but the will of the monarch is above all laws, and only tempered by his own discretion and wisdom.

Dr. Macmichael commends, with just eulogium, the improvements which have been introduced into the Russian military hospitals by Sir James Wyllie, and remarks, that the excellence of the government institutions afford a strong contrast to the general barbarity of the country.

With respect to religion, the Russian government has long been distinguished as one of the most indulgent in Europe; but, with exception to a sect called the Ruscolnitz, which may be translated into English the Malthusian. These fanatics are particularly hostile to the principle of population, and every effort is made to put a stop to their delusion. Under

its influence, while our traveller was at Moscow, a father executed a terrible operation on his infant son, for which he was banished to Siberia, capital punishments being no longer allowed in the empire.

On the 16th December the doctor left the capital, and stopped at Podol, an inconsiderable town, which the French had burnt. Here, at the house where they halted, they met a number of peasants drinking tea, a beverage which they found in that quarter generally substituted for coffee. From this place they proceeded travelling all night on a sledge, over the frozen surface of the ground to Toula, the Birmingham of Russia. German mechanics, and a few English artizans, who have recently been induced, by the promises of the Russian government, to settle here, have greatly increased the skill and activity of the manufactories of steel and fire-arms, which were established here by Peter the Great.

Between this town and Keiw, the sacred city—the Mecca and Jerusalem of the Russian empire, our traveller met with no remarkable incident or object. Keiw has acquired this sanctity in consequence of containing the first church erected within the bounds of the Czar's dominions, and seventy-three saintly carcases, tolerably well dried and preserved in the monastery of St. Anthony. Here they staid five days, but having suffered much annoyance by the rude sledging on the other side of the Dnieper, they changed their equipage for a species of wheeled carriage called *Bridgkas*, but the wheels were not used at first on the journey. They were taken off the axles, and fixed under the carriage, which was placed upon long wooden skates. In this manner they travelled so long as the snow on the ground facilitated sledging; but when the roads became clear, the Bridgkas were placed on their wheels.

At Wassilkow they stopped at a small inn kept by a Jew, and which was remarkably clean, compared with the dirty abodes of persons of the same nation, at whose houses they had been obliged to lodge in other parts of their journey. Their attention was drawn to the dress of their hostess, who wore on her head a cap, the distinguishing mark of a married woman, ornamented with a profusion of pearls. Their Jewish host was a shrewd intelligent fellow, and was curious to know their object in travelling, for he naturally enough concluded, that it was too absurd to be believed that they were travelling for pleasure on a Bridgkas, in the depths of a Russian winter. Dr. Macmichael had observed, in different places inhabited by the Jews, cords attached to high poles, extending in various directions across the streets, connecting, as it were, one house

with another; and their Hebrew landlord informed him that, "as long as these strings are seen stretched from the different poles, it is permitted to have free intercourse with our neighbours; but when they are taken down, on the sabbath for instance, a Jew is forbidden, in case he quits his own house, to carry any thing loose about his person; in his pocket neither snuff-box nor handkerchief must be found." He added, that the authority for this singular custom was derived from the Talmud.

The doctor had frequent occasion, in the course of this journey, to observe the effects of the spirit of commerce. In the most miserable villages between Warsaw and Riga, where the only food to be obtained was but a few eggs, they scarcely ever enquired for malt-liquor, without being served with excellent London porter, and even in the remote town of Bogouslaw they met with beautiful English refined sugar.

At Olchanla they fell in with an officer of hussars, who had been aide-de-camp to the famous Zerni George, who so long maintained the rebel Servians in independence against the Ottoman power. He acknowledged, that although the death of that enterprizing chieftain might be considered as an act of pique or revenge on the part of the Hospodar of Belgrade, yet the suspicious circumstances in which he had clandestinely entered the Turkish dominions would have justified his execution. The Servians were greatly indignant at his assassination; but the Emperor Alexander, in whose service it might be said he held the rank of a general, disavowed him altogether.

At Pestchanoi Brod they breakfasted, and noticed, as they might do in any public-house in the British metropolis, the wretched policy of raising a revenue from the vices, and at the expence of the health of the common people. Their Jewish landlord pointed out to them several groups of peasants in different corners of his hovel, and boasted the quantity that each of them would weekly drink of his pernicious liquor. The Serfs in this part of the country belong to the emperor, to whom they pay only ten rubles annually: but the distilleries are in the hands of government; the Jew is the agent, and, by means of the liquor, all the earnings of the Serfs that did not go into his pocket went to the government. But this is no rare case in the Russian empire, nor a new one. Milton, in his description of Moscovia, says, "The revenues of the emperor are what he list, and what his subjects are able to pay, and he omits not the coarsest means to raise them; for, in every good town, there is a

drunken tavern, called Cursemay, which the emperor either lets out to farm, or bestows on some duke or gentleman, in reward of his service."

From this place they proceeded with all possible celerity, or rather as fast as their bridgkas would go, seeing as much of the country as could be seen during the frosts and snows of winter, and acquiring as perfect a knowledge of the manners and customs of the inhabitants as could be obtained by travelling post, and lodging in dirty village ale-houses.

At Kichénau, in Moldavia, which has been raised by the Russians from an insignificant village to a government-town, they spent Christmas, according to the time kept by the Greek church. Here the characteristics of a Turkish town began to attract their attention. They found the bazaar, or that in which the shops are situated, a dirty narrow street, half-darkened with pent-houses, and the inhabitants a motley crowd of Turks, Greeks, Russians, Arminians, and Jews. They saw, however, the bishop's daughter, a smart young lady, in a carriage, with an Albanian servant behind it; and they were entertained with some vile Moldavian music, performed by a band of itinerant fiddlers, a species of vagabonds called Cinganis, who, in character, practice, and cunning, very strongly resemble our gypsies, whom they also resemble in appearance; we believe, indeed, they are all sprung from the same original stock.

At Pruth, the last post of the Russians in the Moldavian territory, they exchanged their passports, and proceeded to Jassy, the capital of the province, and the residence of the Hospodar.

Jassy, the capital of Moldavia, is pleasantly situated on the declivity of a hill. The town consists of a number of mean houses, built of shingle, interspersed with spacious brick mansions, covered with stucco, and the streets are laid with planks of timber, constantly decaying, and seldom repaired. A mixture of oriental and European costume is observed in the garbs of the inhabitants. The coachmen of the gentry are dressed as hussars, and their masters wear flowing robes, and affect the style and gravity of the Turks. Gaming, and ostentatious parade, are the most prominent vices of the citizens, and the place swarms with the refuse of the French and German stews. French is spoken with some fluency by the best educated; the acquisition forms, however, but a slight portion of their education.

Our travellers were presented to the Hospodar, accompanied by the interpreter of the British vice-consul: they went to the palace about nine o'clock in the morning. It is a brick

edifice, somewhat out of repair, but not without an air of consequence and even of royalty. On alighting, they were received by a person bearing a staff, dressed almost as fantastically as a herald or a beef-eater at the court of St. James's. He was, however, the patch or fool of his highness, and danced before them to the grand chamber of audience, in the most ridiculous manner. The hall was filled with officers, and such other barbaric personages as might be expected in the court of a Hospodar; and the walls were adorned with savage arms, and the insignia of the twenty-two districts into which Moldavia is divided. The prince entered; he appeared in bad health, and his countenance expressed anxiety and sorrow, for he had recently lost a favourite daughter. Having mounted his throne, he made a speech in Greek, announcing the business on which he was about to proceed, which was the nomination of his great officers for the year. This ended, the different persons, who had been previously selected, received the insignia of their respective offices. When this ceremony was finished, the Hospodar retired, and the travellers were admitted to an audience of his highness. The interview was strictly Turkish. They sat on sophas, and were served with pipes, coffee, and sweetmeats. But the conversation was carried on in French; for the Hospodar being always chosen from the principal interpreters of the court at Constantinople, is generally an accomplished man, and possessed not only of talents, but often of no mean acquirements. At their departure, his highness ordered them to be furnished with horses to the frontiers of Moldavia. They left Jassy in the afternoon of the same day, and met with nothing particularly worthy of notice till they reached the picturesque town of Fokschani, on the borders of Moldavia. It is, however, but a small place, although it contains no less than twenty-four Greek churches. From this stage they went on as fast as they could be dragged along, till they reached a miserable habitation, "the cavern of a Troglodyte," where they found two women and three children, "squatting round some lighted sticks, burning on a hearth; a chimney, made of baked mud, projected over the fire, and approached so near the flame, as scarcely to allow room for the persons who were warming themselves to thrust their heads over the volumes of smoke that were partly ascending the outlet, but chiefly diffusing themselves around the den. But, notwithstanding this uncomfortable place, they had been so invited by their fatigue, to rest, that they soon fell asleep.

Next day, they arrived at Bucharest, the capital of Wallachia, one of the two Turkish provinces which are governed by

christian Hospodars. As these governors purchase their appointments from the state, every official situation within their authority is put to sale, and the most flagrant system of intrigue and corruption is the consequence. The city of Bucharest is situated in a low marshy hollow; and the palace having been destroyed by fire a few years ago, the appearance of the court is less splendid than at Jassy, although the government is considered a better appointment. In their introduction to the Hospodar and the princess, our travellers remarked, that the persons presented kissed the palm of his highness' hand, ladies as well as men. They visited also the archbishop, whose conversation turned chiefly on the ecclesiastical topics of good eating. At Bucharest there is a theatre, but it was not open. The season of the carnival having, however, commenced, our travellers had an opportunity of being present at several public balls, and a sort of equestrian show, somewhat in principle resembling the feats of horsemanship at Astley's. The manners of the inhabitants of Bucharest appear to be gross and licentious.

Having remained a week at this petty metropolis, Dr. Macmichael and his companions went forward to the banks of the Danube, which they crossed at Georgiova, to the fortress of Rudschuk, from which place they set forward to Constantinople on horseback, meeting with nothing particularly worthy of description; for, in their passage over the ridges of Mount Hæmus, no particular feature of the landscape of that Alpine region seemed to have been sufficiently striking to engage their imagination.

Having crossed the Hebrus, "celebrated in classic story as the scene of the tragical and miraculous death of Orpheus," they halted at the village of Hevitza, and were present at the rustic festivities of a Servian peasant's marriage, which consisted of eating, drinking, and dancing, as the same sort of occasions are celebrated among the peasantry every where.

From this place they rode to Dsir Mustafa, of which the doctor gives no account; crossing the Hebrus again near the ruins of the beautiful bridge erected by that sultan, they arrived, in due time, on the 31st January, at Adrianople. As this city has been often described, and Dr. Macmichael's description is essentially similar to that of Mr. Galt's, since whose time the town has undergone, apparently, no material change, it is unnecessary for us to extract any particulars.

From Adrianople, with no relaxation of speed, our indefatigable travellers hastened forward to Constantinople; the details respecting which, and the observations concerning the

plague, are interesting, but not of a kind that can well be reduced into the abbreviated form of these extracts. We must, therefore, refer the reader to the book itself; and also for an account of an excursion into Arabia, made by Mr. Legh, forming an additional chapter to the doctor's journal ; and constituting, in our opinion, one of the most striking papers that we have ever met with from the pen of a traveller. How it came to form a part of a journal of travels from Moscow to Constantinople we cannot divine, for it is an account of excursions from Jerusalem, and antiquities in Arabia, and should have been published by itself. It appears, that Mr. Legh accompanied Mr. Banks, respecting whose discoveries a curious paper appeared in Sir Richard Phillips's Monthly Magazine for July last.

V.

A Classical Tour through Italy and Sicily, tending to illustrate some Districts which have not been described by Mr. Eustace, in his Classical Tour. By Sir RICHARD COLT HOARE, Bart. 4to. pp. 557.

THE first chapter consists of the journal of a tour from Siena to the Maremma, Volterra, Populonia, Isle of Elba, Piombino, and Grosseto, and contains numerous notices of the antiquities of the Etrurians, a people who flourished before the dawn of authentic history.

Sir Richard, in speaking of the gigantic Ruins of Rusellæ, makes an ingenious, and, we think, a sound remark on the probable mode adopted by the Etruscan architects, in raising those enormous masses of stone which were used in the construction of their public edifices.

“ On considering,” says he, “ the situation of the Etruscan cities, I find that they were generally built on eminences, of which the summits were purposely levelled. They seem to have begun by rendering the ground even, and raising the walls, before they erected dwellings ; and, probably, the stones thus dug up were employed in the construction of the walls. Hence the mechanical labour of moving such masses was diminished, for the stones were *lowered, not raised.*”

In chapter second, the Baronet describes an excursion which he made from Rome to Beneventum, on the Appian way. It is not very interesting, but still it merits the attention of other travellers ; and his account of the latter city is calculated to

attract the visits of artists. He has introduced a short description of the method employed by the Romans in the construction of their public roads, which is as satisfactory as any that we have met with. It may afford useful hints to our road trustees, and we extract it for their special benefit.

"The first process was to mark out the course of the intended road, which was invariably (in every country where the Romans had a footing) carried in as straight a line as the nature of the country would admit; the soil was then excavated, in order to procure a solid foundation, the want of which was remedied by piles. The sides of the causeway were then flanked by two strong walls, which served as a support to the road, and as a parapet or *trottoir* for the benefit of travellers. The shell of the road being thus formed, the excavated space, or the *fossæ*, was filled up with various layers of stone, cemented together by a kind of earth called *puzzolana*, which has the property of hardening almost equal to marble. Of this earth a mortar was composed, on which was placed an upper stratum of large flat stones, which were formed to a point at bottom. By these precautions, and the nice method adopted in uniting them on the surface, they were so firmly linked together as to become almost one stone."

The third chapter is an unnecessary detail of Horace's journey from Rome to Brundusium. The fourth is the journal of an excursion along the coast of the bay of Naples to Capri. The next is devoted to a description of the delightful island of Ischia, and is the most pleasing in the book. The sixth consists of a journal of a tour to Caserta, Venafro, and Isernia. In speaking of an annual festival at the latter place, in honour of two saints, called Cosma and Damiano, he advertises to a relic of the worship of Priapus, which was preserved in the ceremonies, till prohibited by a royal order, in the year 1780.

The seventh chapter, like the preceding, is a detached journal of an excursion from Naples to Cajazzo, Piedmonte, &c, and adds nothing to the information already before the public respecting them. The eighth describes the country traversed by the *Via Latina*, along which he travelled in his return from Naples to Rome, instead of the beaten track; but the scenes are slightly noticed, and a collection of inscriptions augment the size, but not the interest of the volume.

The ninth chapter will afford more pleasure to the general reader. It describes an excursion to Isola and Sora, and to the convents of Casamare and Trisulto. The former belonged to the order of La Trappe; but although Sir Richard appears to have duly felt the solemnity which reigns in the

abodes of these gloomy fanatics, he has abstained from giving any such account of it as might carry a similar impression to his readers. In describing the Carthusian monastery of Trisulto, however, he makes amends—and we refer to that portion of the work for a pleasing specimen of the author's best manner of describing the scenes which affected his sensibilities. The tenth chapter is a continuation of the journey on the Via Latina; but it is neither so entertaining nor so instructive as an equal number of epitaphs collected from our country church-yards would be. The eleventh contains the notices of an excursion from Rome to the Lake of Celano, &c. the most remarkable particular of which is an account of the drain constructed by the Emperor Claudius, to carry off the superfluous waters of the Fucine Lake.

The Journal of a Tour through the Islands of Sicily and Malta, in the year 1790, which occupies the second volume, is a part of the Baronet's work that the public will not take much interest in; for we have since that time acquired such a thorough knowledge of those countries, that we stand in no need of any such obsolete account of them.

Respecting the populous and superb city of Palermo, and its picturesque environs, he has said less than could be desired; but we must applaud his fidelity in describing the country traversed in his journey from that metropolis to Trapani.

Sir Richard's description of the ruins of Segeste, is one of the best written passages in his work; but in speaking of the rough and coarse appearance of the sculpture of the temple, he does not seem to have been aware that it was probably coated with stucco.

The Baronet remained several days at Trapani, of which, although one of the most interesting towns in the island, indeed the Florence of Sicily, he takes very little notice; nor does he appear to have been informed of its numerous curiosities.

We quote a part of Sir Richard's description of the stupendous remains of Selinunte.

“ I was amazed in beholding these vast masses of stone, and on considering the power and knowledge necessary to raise them to the extraordinary height which the proportions of the temples required. The outermost temple, towards the north, is of the old Doric order, with fluted columns and bases. The middle temple is the smallest, and of the same order, the columns fluted, but without bases. It appears to have been ornamented with the same number of columns as the temple of Segeste, namely, six in front, and fourteen at the sides, in-

cluding those at the angles ; in all thirty-six. The circumference of each column is about eighteen feet, and the intercolumniations about ten. The other temple, towards the south, is by far the largest and the most stupendous fabric I have hitherto beheld. A few stems of the columns are standing, and one nearly of the original height. In the eastern front are the remains of two fluted columns, but all the rest are plain. These three temples are situated on an eminence opposite the ancient city, and in the interval between was the port, now choked up ; and as there are no fragments of any other buildings whatever, it appears evident that they were at a considerable distance from the place itself. The circumference of the walls is easily traced, by the fragments still extant on the opposite hill, where the guard tower, called *Torre delli pulci*, is built. The remains of three other temples, of the old Doric order, with fluted columns, are here visible. They are of different sizes, and inferior in magnitude to those already mentioned.

"I with regret took leave of these venerable and magnificent relics, which I confess gave me more pleasure than the perfect and well-preserved temple of Segeste. For this it is easy to account ; works of architecture, as well as statuary, when executed with just proportions, lose their apparent magnitude in their symmetry and harmony, as has been felt by every one who has viewed the church of St. Peter at Rome, and the figure of the Apollo in the Vatican. Such is likewise the case with the temple of Segeste. But amidst the ruins of Selinunte, the eye wanders with astonishment over the huge masses, scattered on the ground in the wildest confusion ; and the painter may find an almost inexhaustible variety of subjects to employ his pencil in these remains, which are the most gigantic and picturesque I have ever seen. On the ground, at some distance from the temples, is a stone twenty-six feet in length, which, from its form, was probably intended as a part of the architecture of the largest temple."

That part of the work which relates the excursion to Malta, presents a good deal of interesting matter ; but it is unfortunately so much superseded by more particular and later descriptions, that we should not be justified in enlarging on it. On the whole, the present work, though it may not much augment the literary reputation of the author, has a fair claim to be associated with the larger production of Mr. Eustace, to which it is intended to form a supplement.

VI.

First Impressions; or, a Tour upon the Continent, in the Summer of 1818, through Parts of France, Italy, Switzerland, the Borders of Germany, and a Part of French Flanders.
By MARIANNE BAILLIE. 8vo. pp. 375.

THIS work, like the books of many other travellers, was professedly not written for the public; but circumstances occurred which induced the fair author to alter her first intention.

She embarked at Dover, with her friends, for Calais, on the 9th of August, and was shockingly sea-sick on the passage. This, to be sure, was no new occurrence; “the first impression” of the voyage is associated in her delicate mind with what Dean Swift calls “nasty ideas.” But no sooner does our amiable author set her foot on continental earth, than she is relieved from the commotions in her stomach, and finds Quillacq’s hotel “excellent.” The style of furniture is *superior* to that of the first English hotels, (Query, hotels in New-England.)

“The dress of the lower classes here,” says Mrs. Baillie, “is rather pretty; the circumstance of the women wearing caps, neatly plaited, and *tolerably* clean, together with the body and petticoat of different colours, gives them a picturesque air: the long ear-rings (also universally worn at this place, consisting of two drops, one suspended at the end of the other) contribute greatly to their graceful effect;” and we have no doubt, by this time, also contribute to the graceful effect of Mrs. Baillie.

Our fair authoress, in looking out at the window of the inn, met with “a specimen of true French flattery.” “A little ragged urchin, of about ten years old, rather annoyed me, by jumping up, and grinning repeatedly in my face. ‘Allez, allez! que faites vous là?’ said I. ‘C'est que je veux dire bon jour à Madame.’ ‘Eh bien, donc, vous l'avez dit à présent—allez!’ ‘Ah! mais que Madame est jolie! Mon Dieu! elle est very prit. Elle me donnera un sous n'est ce pas.’”

She does not inform us, if she gave this flattering mendicant a penny; but we have no doubt Mrs. Baillie is as kind as she is “prit.”

Her description of Paris contains some lively strokes, but it is in the grotesque rather than the picturesque, that her forte lies. A French postillion is an old subject, and it has never been better handled before. The following sketch

is excellent. "At Chailly, we saw the Virgin Mary looking out of a round hole in the wall, not at all more dignified in her appearance than the well-known hero of Coventry." By the way, how is it that our protestant ladies have such a dislike to the poor virgin?

There is an amusing simplicity, and occasional archness, in some of Mrs. Baillie's notes; and we think the following, respecting the cathedral of Lyons, calculated to raise a smile.— "We went the next day to see the cathedral, which is of Moorish architecture. Within we found a singular mixture of orders; the Corinthian, Composite, Gothic, Saxon, and a sort of non-descript, which (as we were none of us particularly learned on the subject) we concluded to be the regular Moorish." If this were not said with so much naiveté and nonchalance, we should almost be disposed to inquire at what time the Moors were in the practice of building cathedrals? It is, however, in describing little groups and incidents characteristic of the country, that our fair and learned author excels. In this she possesses very considerable powers; and we think her account of the silk-spinners of Beauvoisin is "*very prit.*" "The silk-worm is much cultivated here; and we saw many of the peasants employed in spinning both silk and flax, with distaffs and wheels; multitudes of women and girls were seated at their doors, as we passed through Beauvoisin, all busied in this occupation: they seemed to be chatting together very happily, their tongues going as fast as their fingers. I thought of Shakespeare's "Spinners and Knitters in the Sun" telling "their tales."

Mrs. Baillie, in her alpine descriptions, imitates Mrs. Ratcliff; but they are not the best parts of the book, and we could almost wish that she had employed her scissors on some of them in the manuscript. The following is worth the whole of them.

"In the evening we drove upon the Corso in a *caleche*, the same sort of vehicle which we used while at Paris. The Corso is a pretty, cool, shady promenade, by the side of the river Po. The upper classes of Turin take the cool air of the evening here, every day, in their different carriages; we observed no pedestrians above the rank of the bourgeoisie. We met the King of Sardinia on horseback, not forming the centre of a galaxy of stars and ribbands, but riding first, by himself, followed by an escort of five gentlemen; among whom was his brother. He is a little thin man, apparently about fifty-five, with a countenance expressive of good-nature. The Queen next rolled by, attended by all her suite, in an old-fashioned heavy coach and six; her coachman (big, fat, and

important, sunk in his ample box) and her footmen in gay scarlet liveries, gaudily laced. The equipage altogether puts me strongly in mind of that raised by the fairy for her god-daughter Cinderella, where the coach was originally a pumpkin, the coachman a fat hen, and the lackeys lizards." We have ourselves seen this "lumbering spectacle," and bear testimony to the correctness of the description and the associations it excites.

We are always glad to meet with any observation calculated to awaken the public attention to the contemptible state of the Italian Opera in London. Mrs. Baillie, without instituting any invidious comparison, speaks of the superiority of the performance and decorations of even the Carignano theatre of Turin,—and this is not the principal theatre in that city.

In a bookseller's shop in Turin, she met with a translation of Rob Roy upon the table, which she was assured "was much relished in Italy, and extremely popular; she also saw, in the same place, an Italian sermon, which had been preached upon the death of the Princess Charlotte."

It is astonishing, after all the endeavours that were made by the French to cut up by the roots the monastic institutions of Italy, to find how vigorously they still flourish. "At Turin," says Mrs. Baillie, "priestcraft struck us to be the staple trade of the place; the swarms of dismal, sly-looking, vulgar figures, in their black formal costume, were beyond all belief; and the idea of a flight of ravens came into my head every time I saw them."

As a specimen of our author's powers of description, when she forgets Mrs. Ratcliff's manner and adopts her own, we extract the following account of a thunder-storm—"The effect of its coming on was wonderfully grand and beautiful: a painter would have been in extacies; and we were highly interested in the sight. Looking back upon Turin, we beheld the town, and the conspicuous convent of Capuchins, their white walls starting luminously forth from a back-ground of lowering clouds, of a purple hue, indicative of the gathering tempest, which in a few moments darkened into the most awful gloom that can be imagined. We put up the hood and leather-apron of the carriage, and drove rapidly homewards, while the clouds burst over our heads, and the rain descended in absolute sheets of water. We could not help being delighted with the refreshing change. If Pythagoras's doctrine is true, I am convinced I must have formerly been a duck; for never creature of that nature enjoyed the sort of thing more than myself. The lightning continued for more than an hour, accompanied with tre-

mendous bursts of thunder, louder than the loudest artillery, the wind howling at the same moment, as if in the depth of winter, which, joined to the constant rushing sound of the rain falling from the projecting roofs and broad water-spouts of the surrounding buildings, formed the most sublime concert of wild sounds that I ever heard."

Her description also of the shrine of Carlo Borromeo, in the cathedral of Milan, may be extracted as a favourable specimen of her talent, and an excellent account of a great curiosity.

"Immediately beneath the dome, or cupola, is a subterraneous chapel, where sleeps the embalmed body of St. Carlo Borromeo (the Howard of his age, and an ancient archbishop of Milan,) enshrined in a coffin of the purest rock-crystal, enclosed in a tomb of solid silver, splendidly embossed, and of enormous size and value. The pillars which support this chapel are alternately of silver, and of the most exquisite coloured marble, highly polished. The wax-tapers, which were lighted by the guides, to enable us to tread the dark mazes of this magnificent dungeon (for I can call it by no other name, debarred as it is from the sweet air and light of heaven,) cast a stream of gloomy radiance upon our somewhat lengthened visages, and dimly illuminated the buried treasures of the tomb. Never, surely, since the days of Aladdin, has there existed so imposing a scene of sepulchral wealth and grandeur.

"Having expressed a wish to see the saint, the priest (first putting on a sort of cloak, of old point lace, and crossing himself, with an air of profound respect and reverence) assisted by the guide, began to set some mechanical process at work, by means of which, as though by a stroke of magic, the silver tomb appeared to sink into the earth, the lid flew up as if to the roof of the chapel, and the body, enclosed in its transparent coffin, was suddenly exhibited to our wondering gaze. It was habited in a long robe of cloth of gold, fresh as if just from the loom; on the head was a mitre of solid gold, (presented by one of the former kings of Spain) and by the lifeless side, as if just released from the powerless hands, which were crossed upon its breast, lay a crosier of massy chased gold, studded with jewels of extraordinary richness and beauty, the price of which was scarcely to be reckoned, and whose magnitude and lustre were wonderful! They sparkled brightly in the rays of the taper, as if in mockery of the ghastly spectacle of mortality which they were meant to honour and adorn."

Our readers, on hearing of all this buried and useless treasure, cannot but be surprised that it should have escaped the

French armies, and that among other trophies, the crystal coffin did not form a part of the Napoleon collection at Paris.

In travelling along the passage of the Simplon, of which Mrs. Baillie gives the best description that we have yet met with, we were pleased with the candour and spirit of the following remarks. It is mortifying to the generous feelings of this great nation, that there should exist a cherished system of detraction against those things in the history of Bonaparte, respecting the grandeur of which it is impossible to entertain a doubt. At the same time, while we state this, we are not among the number who regard even the greatest of all his public works as of a magnitude to be put in comparison with other equally useful undertakings in our own country. The Breakwater at Plymouth, is, for example, a more extraordinary work than the Passage of the Simplon; and the Caledonian canal, to say nothing of the bridges and docks of London, sink to insignificance the mightiest of his designs. To return, however, to our accomplished author's reflections on the passage of the Simplon.

"Just at the entrance of one of the grand galleries, we crossed over a stone bridge, hanging in mid air above a tremendous gulf; the river Doveria boiling far below, fed by a cataract from the heights, near the source of which we passed: so near, indeed, that its foaming spray seemed almost to dash against the glass of our carriage-windows. Bonaparte had established here, as well as upon mount Cenis, a sort of *tavernettes*, or houses of relief for wayworn or distressed travellers. A few military now occasionally inhabit them, and the appropriate word *refuge* is frequently inscribed over the doors. A piece of writing-paper, inserted in the cleft of a stick, by the road-side, here attracted our attention. We examined it, and found written thereon, "Viva Napoleone." Our postillions appeared delighted, and exclaimed, in a half-checked voice, *bravo, bravo*. Candidly speaking, we must, indeed, be fastidious, not to be forcibly struck with the various noble works of that wonderful man. At all events, we could not be surprized at his still existing popularity in the north of Italy, a part of the world where he has really done great good, and far less harm than any where else; and, in so short a space of time also, so young a man, from so obscure an origin. It will not do to indulge in reflections upon what might have been, or I could not refrain, I am afraid, from wishing, that for the sake of the arts and sciences he had known how to set bounds to his ambition. This passage of the Simplon alone is sufficient to immortalize his name, and, as long as the mountains themselves exist, so must the me-

mory of Bonaparte. It is quite the eighth wonder of the world. If he *is* a fiend, he is not less than “archangel ruined.” This, to be sure, is a little rhapsodical in Mrs. Baillie; but we do not quarrel with the warmth of generous sensibility. We are only astonished, that those who conceive it their *official* duty to decry the indisputable merits of Bonaparte, do not endeavour to shew that they also, in the art and science *line*, are at least his equals. We have heard much of new palaces and national monuments, the construction of which would give employment to hundreds of hungry artisans, but we see nothing doing in them. The Russian national monument at Moscow was *finished* more than a couple of years ago.

Mrs. Baillie gives a charming female account of Geneva, and of the hospitable society she met with; indeed, she seems to have travelled in excellent temper, and there is nothing,—no, not even sunshine in fine weather, that makes a country look so well as good humour in the bosom of the tourist. Switzerland is, however, at present so well known, and all French Flanders, that our readers might justly complain were we to dwell at greater length on the lively descriptions of this lady. Our extracts are sufficient to shew the literary talent with which the publication has been got up; and we recommend it as a work in which the agreeable spirits of the author add a powerful charm to the vigour and variety of her pencil.

VII.

A Tour through Sicily, in the Year 1815. By GEORGE RUSSELL, of his Majesty's Office of Works, illustrated by a Map and Eighteen interesting Plans and Views. pp. 289.

Mr. Russell's account of Sicily commences from his arrival in the bay of Palermo.

“The noble landscape which presented itself to our view, lying as we then did in this beautiful bay, comprehended within its ample range not only the extensive and magnificent city of Palermo, but also the neighbouring plains, with numerous convents, villas, and cottages, romantically interspersed amid its luxuriant foliage. The splendid prospect is terminated by Monte Pellegrino, Monte Reale, and an amphitheatre of wild and majestic mountain-scenery, extending as far easterly as Capo Zaffarano.

“The morning of our release from imprisonment having arrived, we were permitted to disembark under the *espionage*

of three *gendarmes*, who conveyed us before the magistrates assembled at their office of high police, when, after answering numerous questions put by the officers of justice, we were at last favoured by having our liberty restored. The first use we made of this inestimable blessing was to wait upon the British vice-consul, in order to pay the accustomed visit, and to inform him of the vexatious manner in which we had been treated: this ceremonious interview being concluded, we then proceeded to the hotel, *La Grande Bretagna*, in the *Piazza Marina*, where we resided during our continuance in Palermo.

"The first object that attracted our attention in this truly beautiful city was *Chiesa Madre*, or the cathedral, situated in the principal street, the *Cassaro*. This building was erected in the twelfth century, and presents a most extraordinary appearance, being composed of the Saracen and Gothic styles of architecture, injudiciously mixed together. The interior, although perfectly simple and plain, is enriched with several antique columns of granite. The remains of the Emperors Henry and Frederic are deposited within this sacred edifice, in superb mausoleums of porphyry, which, in their form, greatly resemble that of Agrippa now in the church of *San Giovanni di Laterano* at Rome: they also preserve in the cathedral an ancient Grecian portrait of the *Madonna*, painted on a ground-work of gold.

"We likewise visited the church of *San Giuseppe*, also situated in the *Cassaro*: it is profusely and richly ornamented, and contains some extremely fine columns of grey Sicilian marble, nearly sixty feet high. In the subterraneous chapel attached to this sacred edifice, they preserve a Grecian portrait of the *Madonna*, of great antiquity: this painting is enriched with the most rare and valuable jewels, and is placed upon an altar of pure silver. We then viewed the other principal churches, and found they possessed the same splendid appearance, but without any regard to true taste; in fact, the religious buildings of Palermo are much inferior to those in Rome, and many other cities of Italy.

"We enjoyed the evenings, which are so extremely agreeable in a southern climate, by promenading the *Marina*, a raised public walk, lying next the charming bay of Palermo: this walk, upwards of a mile in length, and about eighty yards in breadth, is defended by a parapet-wall breast high. From sun-set until midnight, nay, often until two or three hours after, this promenade, and the adjoining public gardens, the *Flora*, become as it were the rendezvous of the whole city. In what terms we shall describe this *Flora*, we know not; the

name itself implies much; but certainly, on this occasion, does not convey enough.

“The still murmuring of the neighbouring sea, and the delightful breezes which invariably float during evening upon its surface—the continued warbling of the melodious nightingales, whose divine notes enliven this enchanting garden—the rich variety of aromatic shrubs and flowers, whose delicious essence is wafted by the gentle zephyr through the surrounding atmosphere—and more especially the interesting and lovely Sicilian females who grace this charming Flora,—all united, tend to inspire those who visit this earthly paradise with more than mortal imaginings.”

This is a very warm description of the Flora-garden, but it is in no respect exaggerated: and in contrast to it, in antithesis we should say, we present one of a far different place.

“The great object of attraction, which draws so many persons to visit the Capuchin convent, situated in the environs of Palermo, is their *cimiterio*, or depository for the dead, wherein the fathers and brothers of the order, after their decease, are placed in rows, perfectly upright, their backs being supported against dwarf walls, erected for that purpose. They are habited in the same sort of dress they had been accustomed to wear during their natural life, and bear a ticket on their breast, which denotes the time of their decease, and likewise their age.

“In this *cimiterio* we beheld, horribly exemplified by the varied appearances of more than five hundred human bodies, the grim tyrant death in all his different stages of decay, from the most perfect human, although cold and lifeless form, to, literally speaking, the mere skeleton. After the skeletons fall to pieces, the bones are carefully collected and symmetrically arranged against the walls, and the teeth are set in a species of mosaic work, and form the front of the altar.

“While contemplating this region of the dead, and expressing our surprise at the sight of so many human beings who once lived and moved, our *cicerone* placed his finger under the chin of one whose face we were then earnestly viewing, and raised the body from the ground, as though it had been of paper; so light had this withered emblem of mortality become. They also preserve the cranium of a king of Tunis, who died in the year 1620, and was interred according to the forms and ceremonies of this religious order. The present establishment of the convent consists of nearly two hundred and fifty fathers and brothers.”

We shall now proceed to extract those passages that tend to furnish information of the state of the country.

“The valley surrounding Palermo is not only abundantly

fertile, but richly cultivated : it was formerly much praised on account of the number and beauty of the trees ; and we learn from Livy, ‘ that the Romans easily constructed the palisado with which they surrounded the Neapolis, the country being so completely covered with wood.’ Although this valley does not now possess so woody an appearance, it is, nevertheless, extremely luxuriant and beautiful, especially when contrasted with the wild and majestic alpine-scenery with which it is entirely surrounded.

“ As this capital of Sicily, bordered by the Tyrrhenian sea, and enclosed on three sides by an amphitheatre of mountains, is, when viewed from without, of an appearance far from prepossessing, the traveller upon entering finds himself agreeably surprised at discovering he is within not only a beautiful, but likewise an extensive and well-peopled metropolis, containing, within the circuit of eight miles, a population of nearly two hundred thousand persons.

“ Two large streets, the Cassaro and Strada Nuova, each upwards of a mile in length, and intersecting each other at right angles, divide the city, as it were, into four equal parts, corresponding with the four principal gates : these streets have the advantage of a wide footpath, and are, besides, extremely well paved ; they are also adorned through their whole length with the most splendid buildings. The centre, where they meet, is in the form of an octagon, and hence called Piazza Octangoloza ; each side of this Piazza, or square, is decorated with a beautiful building three stories in height, composed of the three principal or original orders of architecture, the Doric, the Ionic, and the Corinthian ; and is, besides, enriched with statues and fountains. Standing in this Piazza, we enjoyed the most beautiful perspective views through the gates, terminated on three sides by majestic mountain-scenery, and on the fourth by the ‘ dark blue’ sea : a similar *coup d’œil* is, perhaps, not to be met with in any other city in Europe.”

All this is quite correct. It recalls to our recollection the delight and surprise which we experienced in first looking up the Cassaro, or via Toledo, as it was then called, on entering the porta Felice.

We are not aware that the excavated habitations in the valley of Ispica have been described recently. Neither Brydone nor Galt visited the valley, for the excavations near Lentini, noticed by the latter, are at some distance from Ispica.

“ On quitting Modica we proceeded towards the valley of Ispica, through a country wholly covered with stones ; and some small rain, or rather a species of heavy dew, having fallen

during the night, our journey over such unfrequented mountain-tracks was, of course, rendered extremely difficult. Our mules, although the best animals for this kind of travelling, having frequently stumbled, it was deemed more prudent to alight and walk; we however had not gone more than fifty paces before we ourselves fell, which circumstance induced us to remount, being then perfectly convinced that the feet of those animals were much safer than our own. After having passed over some miles of this stony and deserted country, we approached the brink of a deep and narrow valley, whose appearance was as fruitful and luxuriant as the country through which we had passed was wild and uncultivated.

"After descending into this romantic valley by means of an extremely steep path, we were highly gratified with that grand and magnificent, nay, almost alpine-scenery, which presented itself on every side. We next entered the numerous chambers excavated in the rocks forming the sides of this interesting and natural recess, and which were in many places from eight to ten stories in height: these subterraneous retreats were about twenty feet in length, eight in width, and seven in height. Opposite the door in most of them we observed a kind of niche, in which was a ring chiseled out of the natural stone, in all probability for the purpose of attaching a goat, or some other domestic animal; and near the entrance was a basin likewise formed in the stone. Immediately above the entrance was a bevelled opening through the external face or wall, apparently made for the introduction of light and air when these gloomy caves were closed; and in almost all the chambers we discovered a recess in one of the sides, about six feet long and four wide, which evidently served the ancient inhabitants of these gloomy grottos as their place of rest.

"In several of these chambers were various rings in the walls, which appeared to have been made for the purpose of suspending different utensils; while in others were wide grooves worked in the stone to serve in lieu of shelves. We passed through upwards of three miles of this extraordinary valley, always finding the same excavations, in the same order, and under the same form; some, however, had a second chamber excavated behind the first, while in others we observed a round opening, by which a communication was preserved with the floor immediately above. In this opening were holes, apparently made for the insertion of steps, in order more easily to ascend and descend from one to the other.

"We also discovered many tombs excavated out of the natural stone, and in the interior of them were fragments of

bones almost in a state of petrifaction, as well as various pieces of vases composed of red-coloured earth.

"The immense number of chambers existing in this valley, induce most persons to suppose that it had originally been inhabited by a numerous colony. History, indeed, informs us, that the Lestrigons and Sicanians were the first inhabitants of Sicily: the Lestrigons have been described as men of gigantic stature, whose origin was utterly unknown; and the Sicanians as a colony originally from the southern coast of Spain. We likewise learn from the same source, that they were unceasingly disputing the possession of the fertile and abundant plains of Lentini, and the country in the immediate vicinity of Etna: at length the Sicanians were obliged to yield, and the Lestrigons chased them away towards the south. Ispica is situated precisely in this direction, when considered topographically with respect to Etna, and it was, therefore, in all probability to this valley that they retired.

"The genius of man naturally leads him, not only to imitate that which he has at any time seen, but also to seek, by every possible means, to possess those comforts of life to which he has at any former period been accustomed; for instance, when an European colony proceeds into a desert country, they immediately set about constructing houses more or less resembling those in which they were born, in preference to residing in the open air. Ought we not then to refer the formation of these chambers to that period of antiquity, when the inhabitants of Sicily consisted wholly of pastors and shepherds?"

The following notes respecting Syracuse, are interesting.

"Near the theatre is one of the Latomiæ, or quarries, excavated by the Athenians, who were made prisoners at the battle that occurred about the year 413 B. C. These spacious and extensive Latomiæ, of which there are several in Syracuse, were in all probability undertaken more for the stone, which was then absolutely necessary to carrying on the vast and magnificent buildings erecting in the city, than as a place of confinement; but, in after-times, they were converted into prisons. This particular one is about three-quarters of a mile in circumference, and is excavated to the depth of about one hundred and twenty feet below the level of the adjoining ground; it is now converted into a garden, and presents a most luxuriant appearance: here we observed the deep crimson blossom of the pomegranate, and the bright yellow of the Indian fig, elegantly intermingled with the vine and the orange: in fact, the inhabitants of Syracuse call this lovely spot their paradise. Within this Latomiæ are many subter-

raneous grottos likewise dug out of the living rock, the principal of which, from the particular elevation of the entrance, conjointly with the name of the tyrant who originally caused its formation, is generally known by the appellation of the Ear of Dionysius: the peasants, however, of the neighbourhood, from its possessing a very strong echo, generally call it the Speaking Grotto. The peculiar form and picturesque effect of these singular caves would render them no less agreeable than curious and interesting, if we could forget the dreadful evils which formerly took place within them; if we could forget the ponderous chains, the inhuman tortures, and the cruel tyranny of Dionysius, who not only behaved in the most cruel and barbarous manner to prisoners of war confined within them, but also to such of his subjects as were so unfortunate as to awaken his suspicion.

"This grotto is about one hundred and seventy feet in depth, twenty to thirty-five in breadth, and sixty in height: and the small aperture seen on the right of the highest point of the entrance leads to a chamber about six feet by four, in which there is an opening that looks into the interior. In the days of Dionysius, the existence of this chamber and the path leading to it, were kept a most profound secret: and it is generally believed, that the tyrant used to resort to it for the purpose of listening to the conversation of the prisoners who were unfortunately confined within this horrid space.

"Having ascended into this chamber, (Mr. Russell says,) a conversation was carried on in an under voice, in order to ascertain the truth of the echo which this grotto was stated to possess; and what was said by our companions, stationed at its further extremity, was most distinctly heard, as well as the action of tearing some writing paper; so wonderfully surprising is the echo; or reconveyance of sound in this singularly constructed vault. Whether the primary formation was the work of chance, or whether it was excavated upon a pre-concerted plan, it becomes neither the less interesting nor the less extraordinary: it presents a gloomy, and, at the same time, most imposing effect, and almost realises in the imagination an idea of the cavern of the ancient Sibyls. This grotto, as we have already mentioned, is extremely sonorous, and reverberates the slightest sound many times; the echo is perfectly natural, although it is multiplied and prolonged to a considerable degree; and, independently of the extreme truth with which the voice is impelled back again, the power of it is likewise considerably increased.

"For the purpose of enjoying this celebrated echo in the

greatest perfection, we took a brace of pistols, with which we amused ourselves within this obscure retreat; and the report occasioned by their discharge produced a confused noise, resembling that of a long continued peal of thunder. On another occasion, during the cool breeze of a delightful evening, we retired to this place, accompanied by a shepherd, who was accounted a tolerably good performer on the flute, for the purpose of hearing the effect produced by music: with this experiment we were highly gratified, inasmuch as the shepherd played some favourite Sicilian airs most delightfully, the melodious notes of which were echoed, and re-echoed, with enchanting fidelity.

"The interior of another of these grottos presents the most extraordinary appearance, the ceiling, if we may so call it, being supported by pillars originally left in the natural stone, but which, having become rounded by time, now resemble enormous stalactites; while the solemn tranquillity constantly pervading this subterraneous excavation, almost led us to fancy that it must have been intended for the abode of the God of Silence. We next proceeded to the catacombs, which are considered more extensive, and in a better state of preservation, than those at Rome or Naples. The entrance appears to have been used in times subsequent to their formation as a church: in fact, tradition mentions that it was consecrated by Saint Marcian, whom Saint Peter had appointed bishop of the island. The episcopal seat still exists, and is decorated with two Ionic columns: on one side rests the tomb of Saint Marcian, constructed with true apostolic simplicity; and on the other a small column of granite appears, which the inhabitants in the immediate neighbourhood, even at the present day, hold in great estimation, believing that many of the saints who suffered martyrdom at Syracusa in the early days of christianity, had been attached to it during the period they were innocently suffering the excruciating pangs of death.

"We then passed into one of the principal streets of the catacombs, or in other words, subterraneous city, which is near twenty feet wide, and eight feet high, with its ceiling or upper surface sometimes flat, sometimes semicircular, and sometimes spherical. The street continues in a straight direction, and we advanced about a mile, when an impediment presented itself, occasioned by some of the natural soil having fallen in, which rendered all further progress totally impracticable.

"In our perambulation along this street, we observed innumerable tombs on both sides, with semicircular openings excavated out of the living stone, and also several sepulchral chambers, each possessing a private entrance. In all proba-

bility these chambers were reserved for some of the principal families, perhaps those who contributed towards the execution of this extensive work; and in most of them a niche of much superior workmanship was very perceptible, which no doubt had been originally formed for the head of such particular family.

"At intervening distances we encountered transverse streets, forming at their intersections little squares, and also several circular saloons, whose ceilings were generally spherical; around these saloons numerous tombs are symmetrically excavated with much attention to order, and in the centre of the ceilings are openings, which were in all probability made for the purpose of admitting air and light into this city of the dead.

"The origin of this gloomy labyrinth, whose extent is so considerable that our *cicerone* was fearful of proceeding to the end of any one of the principal streets, must assuredly be attributed to the Greeks when they were at their highest point of prosperity, a period long antecedent to their subjugation by Marcellus, for since that period the city of Syracusa has never contained a sufficient number of inhabitants, even if they had all been employed, to have executed a work of such extensive magnitude.

"The only species of ornament existing within these catacombs are some indifferent paintings, representing palm branches, doves, and other religious emblems, as well as circles inclosing crosses, and Greek and Latin letters, which were the signs formerly used to distinguish the tombs of the christians from those of the pagans. In all probability these miserable paintings and inscriptions were executed in the early ages of christianity, when the faithful were obliged to have recourse to such subterraneous places of retreat, as well in order to celebrate their holy rites, as to shield themselves from the cruel persecutions then carried on against them.

"Although the catacombs of Syracusa do not present so gloomy and melancholy an appearance as those of Naples or Rome, yet there is such a mysterious tranquillity reigning over this silent city, as most distinctly announces that the intruder is within the sanctuary of repose. In fact, of all the ancient monuments existing at Syracusa, these are the best calculated for enabling us to judge, not only of the great population, but of the grandeur and magnificence of this once splendid city. The entrance to the catacombs lies through a convent of Benedictines, founded by Pope Gregory towards the close of the sixth century; and one of the holy fathers attached to the establishment, who accompanied us in our ex-

cursion, communicated much useful and interesting information respecting these extensive excavations.

"Returning from the catacombs, we passed along an ancient street nearly four hundred feet in length, in which there still exist many tombs and sepulchral chambers: and in the interior of several we observed circular-headed niches, which had evidently been made for the reception of cinerary urns. The entrance to these sepulchral chambers is ornamented with a fluted Doric column on each side, and terminated with an entablature and pediment: and from the plain and simple style in which they are constructed, we were naturally induced to suppose that they were of great antiquity, probably long antecedent to the formation of the catacombs."

"Among the different monuments still existing in this street, our *cicerone* pointed out one as being the supposed tomb of Archimedes: this supposition is somewhat strengthened by what Cicero mentions in the course of his orations against Verres, 'that he discovered the mausoleum of Archimedes surrounded and almost inclosed with brambles and thorns in a street situated near the ancient gate Agragiana.' Upon referring to the actual situation of this street, we find it is in a direction leading to that particular gate of the city, through which all persons either proceeding to or returning from Agrigentum, must have been obliged to pass."

Catania, one of the finest cities in Europe, situated at the foot of Etna, deserves to be noticed by us.

"There are few cities more interesting, or which merit more attention than Catania, although unfortunately the greater proportion of its antiquities are concealed within the various strata of lava. It is much to be regretted that more taste was not displayed in its re-construction: if, for instance, instead of the architecture of the palaces and churches being of that enriched style, it had been more chaste and simple, this city would have been accounted not only the most magnificent in Sicily, but even in Europe.

"The square in which the market is held, is generally considered the best designed of any part of the city: it is entirely surrounded by splendid buildings, and noble porticos, constructed of marble. Even the principal square, Piazza del duomo, although much more extensive, is not, in its general appearance, superior: it is, however, ornamented with two fragments of antiquity, which are certainly curious, and very happily grouped; they consist of an obelisk of Egyptian granite, elevated upon the back of an elephant composed of lava. The elephant was the ancient symbol of Catania.

"The *chiesa madre*, or cathedral, was originally built by

Count Roger, but reconstructed in its present form after the fatal earthquake : its front is decorated with some superb columns drawn from the ruins of the ancient theatre. They preserve in the sacristy a painting, representing, with great exactness, the course taken by the lava of 1669, together with a general view of the city, such as it then appeared, which is very justly celebrated from its being the production of an eye-witness of this dreadful scene.

“ Under this church are situated some ancient baths, which were not only discovered some few years since by a Prince of the house of Biscari, but the whole of the expences required in making the excavations were likewise defrayed by him : this nobleman also undertook, at his own charge, the excavations made at the amphitheatre. We avail ourselves of the present opportunity to remark, that this prince, from his intimate knowledge of antiquity, and his judicious excavations, has certainly restored to the modern all the glory and splendour of the ancient Catania. Those parts of the baths, however, which he caused to be excavated, although considerable, form only a small portion of their extent : they consist of an exterior gallery, and an interior peristyle, with several baths. The ceilings are covered with a species of stucco, apparently composed of particles of lava, and the baths generally are constructed of lava, finished with the same kind of stucco.

“ Our *cicerone* next conducted us to the ruins of the amphitheatre, which are very considerable, and offer, even at the present day, some idea of the grandeur of this ancient monument. It has been entirely stripped of the *mattoni*, or bricks, with which it was covered, as well as all the external ornaments, and there is nothing left but pilasters, which are constructed of lava : from these pilasters spring arches which support a gallery, and upon this a second gallery is raised, bearing the uppermost seats of the amphitheatre. This once splendid edifice remained concealed under an accumulated mass of rubbish for many ages, and it was only at the period when Catania was rebuilt that it was discovered : it, however, remained for the Prince of Biscari to excavate, and, as it were, to open it to public view. The same obstacles which arrested the excavations at the baths, namely, the contiguity of various private buildings, likewise presented themselves here, and placed bounds to the active researches of this nobleman.

“ The ruins of the ancient theatre are not less interesting, although in a state of great decay, and there does not exist at the present time a vestige of the proscenium or of its enrichments : the columns of granite which formerly decorated it be-

ing about a century ago taken away for the purpose of ornamenting the front of the cathedral, where they still remain. These elegant columns, and the various marble capitals, bases, friezes, cornices, and other fragments, now lying in the courtyards of the Biscari Museum, sufficiently indicate the former grandeur and magnificence of this once splendid theatre.

" Adjoining the theatre is an Odeum, a smaller building of the same class, which, agreeably to Pausanias and Vitruvius, was constructed for the performance of music: a similar edifice, situated in like manner, immediately contiguous to the larger theatre, likewise exists in the ancient Pompeia, and is in the highest state of preservation. These buildings having no *pulpitum*, or any of the preparations necessary for scenic representation, of course strengthen the opinion of their having been originally intended for such performances.

" So many public edifices, of almost every description, having been constructed in such a confined space, must have left little room for private dwellings; and, the inference naturally deduced from this circumstance is, that ancient Catania was more enriched with public buildings than well peopled. It may even be added, that in this respect the modern greatly resembles the ancient city, inasmuch as the principal streets are almost wholly occupied by convents, churches, and splendid palaces.

" The present will be a fit occasion for introducing some account of the immense and superb cabinet of the Prince of Biscari, which forms, without contradiction, not merely an object of the greatest curiosity, but also highly interesting. This prince has not only been the means of discovering and bringing to light most of the edifices of ancient Catania, but has likewise amassed, at a very considerable expence, a vast collection of antiquities, which, to describe slightly, would require a volume. We shall not, therefore, enter into a detail of this extensive museum, but simply state, that it contains numerous architectural fragments, especially of the ancient monuments of this city; a splendid series of medals and coins; specimens of antique mosaics, altars, pateras, and utensils of sacrifice. Various urns, and several choice specimens of ancient sculpture, also adorn this superb collection, as well as antique vases, the most precious that exist, whether with respect to elegance of form or purity of design, and which are known commonly by the appellation of Etruscan, although more properly designated under that of Greco Seculo, from their having been manufactured in Sicily. This prince has also united the whole natural history of Sicily, comprising marine plants, shells, and fish, as well as minerals; the different volcanic productions,

marbles, alabasters, precious stones, crystals, petrifications, vegetables, and animals, the whole arranged in such systematic order as indicates considerable science and taste. The museum likewise contains a collection of ancient armour, and many singular costumes.

"The museum in the convent of Benedictines should not be passed over without notice, for it contains a considerable collection of antiquities, although not so scientifically arranged as those above-mentioned; among which are numerous antique utensils for domestic purposes, of great beauty and purity, both in their ornaments and execution; and which are considered superior to those deposited in the celebrated museum of Portici. The ancient vases preserved within this convent are very curious, many of them being extremely elegant in their form as well as possessing a degree of perfection in their paintings.

"The interior of the convent is profusely ornamented and enriched, more especially that portion reserved for the museum: and its external appearance seems rather to announce the palace of a prince than the residence of men who have renounced the vanities of this world. Their church is magnificent and of great extent, and contains an organ constructed by a father of the order, whose various sounds imitate different musical instruments in the most perfect manner. The organist was directed to attend for the purpose of playing some tunes upon this instrument, which he certainly executed in a very superior manner: one tune in particular, imitating an echo, was truly admirable; it almost led the imagination to fancy it was following the sound into the very distance of mountains."

Mr. Russell does not often indulge in general observations, nor is he, in our opinion, correct in the following. The remarks respecting the predominance of the clergy are certainly just; but the ecclesiastical institutions are in a state of rapid decay; and the population of the country has, without question, of late years been evidently increasing. The new buildings and extended boundaries of the towns are the evidences of this fact.

"Before leaving Sicily, we shall offer a few general remarks on men and manners, as they presented themselves to our observation. In the first place, the religion of the country, which is Catholic, occupies too considerable a station, and embraces by far too much of the public wealth: it also greatly encourages indolence, inasmuch as in some places nearly one fifteenth of the population is attached to its service, which is, most undoubtedly, the cause of so much of the land remaining uncultivated. The remarks introduced in different parts of

this work, as to the religious *fêtes* and processions, will suffice to shew the degree of bigotry and superstition which still prevails; and while the clergy, as is now the case, possess almost supreme authority over their temporal as well as their spiritual affairs, there can be no hope of improvement.

"As to the population of the island generally, it is certainly upon the decline: this arises principally from so many persons belonging to the church being constrained to lead a life of celibacy. According to a census made a few years since, the number of individuals amounted to little more than one million seven hundred thousand: what a sad falling off does this circumstance present from that period, when, according to ancient records, the city of Syracusa alone contained no less than one million eight hundred thousand inhabitants! We have before observed on the extremely low state of their productions in mechanics and manufactures; and as to the fine arts, the Sicilians, with very few exceptions, appear to possess but little taste for their cultivation."

But we are constrained by our limits to conclude, and the account of the volcano of Shambolo, one of the most interesting objects of the Sicilian region, must serve to close these ample and favourable extracts of this respectable volume.

"This isle in form is perfectly conical, which, no doubt, was the cause of the ancients calling it Strongyle; this name has since been converted into its modern appellation of Stromboli. The isle is terminated by two summits of different heights, very steep, and is about twelve miles in circumference; it affords only one place where a landing may be effected, and that is situated towards the north-east, where the base is prolonged, and presents rather the appearance of an inclined plane. This little plane or valley is the only part susceptible of culture, and produces excellent fruit, and some cotton, the exchange of which procures subsistence for about two hundred persons, who live like so many salamanders in perfect security, although constantly exposed to eruptions immediately over their heads.

"Stromboli is the only volcano known which maintains an incessant activity, and the manner of its explosions has no resemblance with other volcanos: ordinarily they are announced by a subterraneous noise, the *avant courieur* of an eruption, and generally preceded by clouds of thick smoke mingled with flame: on the contrary, the eruptions of this singularly formed mountain take place at certain regular intervals; and from the summit which overlooks this inflamed crater, the exact period between each may be accurately ascertained; it is about seven minutes. From the superior light of the sun,

no flame is visible during the day, only a thick white smoke, which soon vanishes in the atmosphere. The stones emitted from this volcano, when seen at night, are of a bright and lively red, but by day they appear perfectly black: the various matters being elevated perpendicularly, the greater part of course return into the crater; this may serve to explain why men are found so courageous as to inhabit this island.

"We learn that the ancients placed the palace of Æolus in the isle of Stromboli, and the forges of Vulcan in that of Lipari, which latter was considered under the immediate protection of this deity. Ancient medallions incontestably prove this circumstance, many of them bearing an impression of the god covered with a coarse kind of helmet, and representing on the reverse, sometimes two, three, or six balls wholly unconnected, and sometimes two united by a bar, similar in every respect to the chain-shot of the present day."

"After passing the second night in the vicinity of Stromboli, and again beholding it in all its terrific grandeur, a favourable breeze sprung up, which soon enabled our vessel to make the Neapolitan coast near the gulf of Salerno. We now enjoyed some of the most beautiful landscapes, consisting of the romantic scenery encircling this gulf, backed by the receding mountains of the Apennines, which presented themselves under the most enchanting forms. As we progressively advanced over the surface of the deep, these extensive and magnificent prospects of course experienced constant changes, thus producing a succession of interesting views, not unworthy the pencil of a Claude."

We cannot take leave of Mr. Russell without expressing our regret that he should have made his work so expensive. The price is a *Guinea*, and the decorations are not so executed as to justify such a price. He ought also to have reflected, that of late years we have had a series of publications respecting Sicily, by which the utility of any new work on the subject was rendered at least questionable. Mr. R. does not appear to have made himself acquainted with the state of the public information regarding this beautiful and interesting island, before leaving England, and the consequence of this general disadvantage has, in some cases, given rise to very minute and satisfactory descriptions of things which other travellers have, perhaps, treated too negligently.